

QUEEN MAB;
OR
FAIRY ADVENTURES;

BEING A
SERIES OF INCIDENTS
WONDERFUL AND SURPRISING:

IN WHICH ARE PAINTED
THE HAPPINESS ATTENDANT ON VIRTUE,

AND THE
Punishment that necessarily follows Vice, illustrated by
Example.

Write in your Mem'ry what these Tales contain,
And keep the Moral constantly in View;
Which points to Virtue, as the greatest Gain:
And recommends to all the Practice too.

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For the Description of the elegant Frontispiece,
see Page 8.



QUEEN MAB.

THE S T O R Y OF THE PRINCESS CARPILLONA.

THERE lived some ages ago, an old king, who to make amends for a long widowhood, married a young beautiful princess, with whom he was very much in love. By his first wife he had one son, who was both crooked and squint-eyed, and who was very much displeased at his father's marrying a second time —

- My being my father's only son (said he) makes me
- both loved and feared; but if the young queen has
- children, my father, who can dispose of his crown as
- he pleases, will not consider that I am his eldest son,
- but will disinherit me for them." He was not only

ambitious and malicious, but a great dissembler; inso-
much that he shewed not the least uneasiness, but went
privately to consult a fairy, who passed then for one of
the most able. The fairy told him he come too late,
that the queen was with child of a son, to which she
should do no harm; but if he died, or any ill accident
befel him, she promised the queen should have no more:
which comforted the prince a little, who, conjuring the
fairy not to forget him, returned home, resolving with
himself, to make away with his little brother.

At nine months end, the queen was delivered of a lovely boy, in whom there was something very remarkable, he having an arrow imprinted on his arm. The queen was so fond of her child, that she would nurse it herself, which was no way pleasing to the crooked prince, the mother's care being always beyond any nurse's, and it being not so easy for him to accomplish his designs.

Nevertheless, he resolved to make an attempt. He shewed a great value and respect for the queen, and a tenderness towards the infant, of which the king was very fond: 'I could not have thought, (said he) my son so good-natured; he shall lose nothing by it: for if he continues to be so, I'll leave half my kingdom to him. These promises were not enough for the prince, who was resolved to have all, or none; and to that end, one night presented some comfits made up with opium, to the queen, who soon after fell into a sound sleep: and then the prince, who had hid himself behind the hangings, took the child away softly, and put in its stead a cat wrapped up in swadling cloths.—The cat cried, and awakened the queen; who being drowsy, and thinking it her little poppet, gave it her breast; which the cat bit: whereupon looking and seeing the cat's head, she shrieked out. Her grief was so lively, that she thought she should have died away that moment. The noise and screamings of the women alarmed the whole court. The king put on his night gown and ran into her apartment; where the first thing he beheld, was the cat, in the swadling clothes, thrown on the ground and mew-ing. The king was very much surpris'd, and asked what that meant; they told him the young prince was not to be found, and that the queen was hurt. Thereupon he went immediately into her chamber; where he found her in affliction, not to be expressed: the which, that he might not augment by his own sorrow, he constrained himself, to comfort the poor princess.

In the mean time the crook-backed prince had given his little brother to one of his creatures, bidding him carry him to some distant forest, and expose him naked to the wild beasts, that he might be heard no more of, promising to reward him well, and then returned to

his apartment: from whence he ran into the queen's rubbing his eyes, as if he was asleep: where, when he was informed of what had happened, he stamp and roared like a mad man, and, out of his natural fierceness, twisted the cat's head off: and in this manner disguised the crime he was so deeply guilty of, shedding tears. The king and queen, who thought too well of him, sent him to all the fairies, to learn what was become of their child; and he, to put a stop to any further inquiries, returned with several different and intricate answers: which all seemed to assure them, that the child was not dead, but was, for some reasons not to be known, only taken away for a time, and that all their searching any more after him would be to no purpose. This he thought would make them easy, and indeed it had its effect; for the king and queen both flattered themselves with the hopes of seeing their son again. Notwithstanding the queen's breast gangreened, and she died. Upon which the king became so afflicted and sorrowful, that he saw no light for a twelvemonth, living only in expectation of hearing some news of his lost child.

The man whom the prince delivered him to, travelled all night with him, without making the least halt; and in the morning, when he opened the basket, in which he carried him, this pretty infant smiled, as he was used to do at his mother. 'Oh! poor prince, (said the man) how unhappy is thy fate, to serve, alas! for food to some hungry lion? why did the prince, thy brother, make choice of me, to be assisting to, thy destruction?' Then he shut the basket again, that he might not behold an object so worthy his pity; but upon the child's crying, who had not had the breast all night, to quiet it, he gathered some figs, and put into its mouth, and so carried it all that day; and the night following, arrived at a vast forest, which he would not enter then; for fear of being devoured himself, but stayed till the next morning: when advancing in the forest, which was so large he could see no end, he perceived a place where the trees stood very thick, and a rock in the midst of them, that branched out in several

points. 'This place, (said he) must certainly be a retreat to the wild beasts; here I must leave the child, since it is not in my power to save it.' Then approaching towards the rock, he saw a large eagle flying about, as if she had young ones; and looking further, found her nest in the bottom of a kind of grotto: thereupon undressing the child, he laid it in the midst of three young eagles in the nest, which was well sheltered from the weather, and difficult and hazardous, to get to, by reason of the briars it was surrounded with, and its being so high a precipice. Then leaving the young prince and seeing the eagle fly to her nest, he sighing, said, 'Alas! poor infant, thy fate is accomplished, thou servest that bird of prey to feed her young with.' And afterwards returned to his master, and assured him his brother was no more; for which news, the barbarous prince embraced his faithful agent, and presented him with a fine diamond ring, assuring him, he should be captain of his guards, when he was king.

But to return to the eagle: when she came to her nest, she was somewhat surprised to find this new guest there; however, she exercised the rights of hospitality, more than some people would do: she put him next her nestlings, covered him with her wings, took care of him, and whatever engaged her in his favor, went and provided the most nourishing fruit, which she squeezed with her bill into his mouth: and, in short, made him an excellent nurse. When the young eagles were fledged, they left their nest solely to the prince, who nevertheless was not abandoned by the old one, which fed him still with the choicest fruits; and by some fore-sight, fearing, lest he getting out, should fall down the precipice, removed him to another place, which was upon a high rock, where he was most secure. — Love, who is always painted most beautiful, was not more perfect than this young prince: the heat of the sun could not prejudice his complexion, which exceeded the lilies and roses; his features were more regular than the best painters could imagine; his hair red
down

down to his shoulders, his mien was majestic: in short nothing could be more noble. But the eagle having young ones again, she made such havock among all the neighbouring flocks, that the shepherds losing every now and then a lamb; resolved to discover her nest: and to that end, agreed to watch her; which they did for a long time: when one day, they observed, she alighted on this rock, which the most hardy of them resolved to climb: though the attempt was very dangerous, yet it answered their expectations. They discovered the nest, and found in it two young eagles, and this young prince, who was about four years old.— Their amazement at the sight of him was inexpressible: and they could not tell what to imagine at such an extraordinary thing. However, they tore the nest in pieces, and carried away the young prince, and the two eagles. The eagle hearing their cries, came furiously towards them, and had made these ravishers feel the effects of her resentment, had not one of the shepherds killed her with an arrow he let fly at her. The young prince seeing his nurse fall, cried and wept bitterly: and the shepherds, overjoyed at what they had done, returned to their hamlet, where they were to perform the next day a cruel ceremony: the cause of which was as follows:

This country had served a long time for a retreat of the Ogri, (who were a larger sort of men, and great eaters of human flesh) and not liking such dangerous neighbours, had endeavoured, but with ill success, to drive them away. The Ogri, enraged at the hatred they bore them, redoubled their cruelties, and devoured all that came to their hands. When one day, as the shepherds, were assembled together, to deliberate on what they should do, there appeared in the midst of them, a man of a prodigious size, the lower part of whose body was like a goat, covered with a blue shag: on his shoulders he carried a great club, and on his left arm a buckler. ‘Shepherds, (said he) I am the Blue Centaur: if you will give me every three years a child.

' I promise to bring an hundred of my brothers, and drive the Ogri away.' The shepherds made some difficulty to engage themselves in so cruel an engagement: till the elder of them said, ' What, my friends, is it not better for us to give one to preserve so many, since the Ogri neither spare men, women, nor children; therefore let us not refuse the Centaur's offer.' They all by this argument consented, and swore the Centaur should have a child every third year. After that he went away, and returned as he promised, with his brothers, who were all monstrous as himself. The Ogri were no less brave than cruel: they fought several battles with great obstinacy, wherein the Centaurs were always victorious, and forced them at last to fly. The blue Centaur demanded his recompence, which every one allowed to be just; but when they came to deliver up the promised infant, there was no family could think of parting with one of theirs, and the mothers hid all their children. The Centaur, who could not bear to be jested with, after having waited twice four and twenty hours, told the shepherds, that he expected as many children as they made him wait days; insomuch, that their delays cost them six boys and as many girls: but since that time they have regulated this affair, and every third year make a solemn festival, to deliver their promised infant to the Centaur.

It happened that the day whereon the prince was found, was the day before this tribute was to be paid: and though there was a child provided, it must easily be thought that the shepherds would deliver this prince in its stead. The mother of the other, freed by this means from all the horrors she must necessarily lie under the apprehensions of the death of her child, was transported with joy. And as she was obliged to dress him, she combed his fine locks, put him on a garland of white and red roses, wrapped him up in a fine white cloth, which she girt about him with flowers. Thus adjusted, he walked at the head of a great many children that were to attend him: but I may say, it was with an air of so much grandeur, and state, as seemed

as if all the shepherds made this procession only to divert him, so little was his dread: which drew tears from many, who said, it was pity that beautiful child should go to be devoured, and wished it was in their power to save him: but that was impossible. The Centaur was used to appear on the top of a rock, with his club in one hand, and his buckler in the other, and with a terrible voice to cry out to the shepherds, 'Leave me my prey, and retire.' This time, as soon as he perceived the child, he roared out in a dreadful voice, 'This will be the best meal I have ever made in my life; this boy will be a delicious morsel.'—Which made the shepherds and shepherdesses weep, and say, 'How unhappy is this child to have escaped (which was a prodigy) the eagle's talons, to be food for this cruel monster!' And among the rest an old shepherd, taking him in his arms, kissed him often, and said, 'Though I know thee not, dear babe, I am sensible I have seen too much of thee for my repose — Why must I be assisting at thy funeral? and why was fortune so cruel to preserve thee for this horrible end?' While he was moistening the prince's rosy cheeks with his tears, this innocent babe put his hands into his grey hairs, and smiling upon him, inspired him with more pity, that he seemed loth to advance. Whereupon the hungry giant cried out, 'Make haste; if you make me come down I shall devour an hundred of you. And indeed was so impatient, that he rose up, and made a flourish with his club; when, all on a sudden, there appeared in the air, a great globe of fire, incircled with a blue cloud. Every body was attentive to such an extraordinary sight; the globe and cloud approached them by degrees; and when nigh the earth, opened, and there came out a chariot of diamonds, drawn by six swans, in which sat a beautiful lady, dressed like an Amazon, with an helmet on her head of pure gold, on which was a plume of white feathers; and her visor, which was raised up, discovered eyes as bright as the sun: her body was armed with a rich cuirass, and in her hand she held a spear of

fire. 'What, shepherds, (said she) are you so inhuman, to give this lovely babe to that cruel Centaur? It is now time to free you from your promise; justice and reason both oppose such barbarous customs: fear not the return of the Ogri; I will secure you: I am the fairy Amazona, and from this moment will take you under my protection.' 'Ah! madam, (cried the shepherds and shepherdesses, holding up their hands) this is the greatest happiness that can befall us.' And were saying a great deal more, when the furious Centaur defied her to the combat; in which he was burnt to death by the fire of her spear, and fell with as much noise as if a mountain had been overturned; that the shepherds frightened therewith, hid themselves in caves that were under rocks, from whence they could see all that passed.

It was thither that the wise shepherd fled with the little prince in his arms, as much concerned for the child as himself and family. After the death of the Centaur, the fairy Amazona took a trumpet, and sounded so melodiously with it, that the sick persons who heard it, recovered their former health, and those who were well, conceived a secret joy which they could not express. At last, when all the shepherds and shepherdesses were assembled together at the sound of the harmonious trumpet, the fairy Amazona advanced towards them in her diamond chariot, rolling within three yards of the ground, on a cloud as clear as crystal. The old shepherd, whose name was Sublimus, appeared with the little prince clinging about his neck: 'Come forwards, Sublimus, (said the fairy) fear nothing, peace shall reign here for the future, and you shall enjoy the repose you have sought so much after; but give me that child whose adventures are so extraordinary.' The old man, after making a low bow, held out his arms, and put the prince in her's, when she had him, caressed and embraced him a thousand times, setting him on her knees, and talking to him; who, though he understood no language, yet by accents and signs he could express joy and grief:

for

for he had never heard any person speak before. He was so dazzled with the fairy's bright arms, that getting upon his knees to examine it from the head-piece downwards, and to touch it: the fairy smiled and said, though he could not understand her, 'When my boy, you are fit to wear such an armour, you shall not want.' And then returning him back to the shepherd, after having kissed him tenderly, 'Wise old man, (said she) you are no stranger to me, vouchsafe to take care of this child; learn him to despise the grandeur of the world, and be above the strokes of adverse fortune, though he may be born to a splendid one: but I hold it better to be wise than powerful. The happiness of men ought not to consist in outward greatness, but in wisdom: and the greatest is to know ourselves to limit our desires, to be as well contented with a moderate competency, as with the greatest riches; to search after the esteem of people of merit: to despise none, and be always ready to quiet the miserable life without regret. But what am I thinking of, venerable shepherd! I am telling you things which you know as well as myself; but then I mention them not so much for yourself, as for the other shepherds. Farewell, shepherds, call me when you want me: this same spear, and this same hand, which put an end to the life of the blue Centaur, shall always be ready to protect you.'

Sublimus, and those who were with him, were so confounded, and at the same time overjoyed, that they could return no answer to the obliging words of the fairy; but prostrated themselves before her, while the globe of fire, rising by degrees, ascended to the middle region of the air, and was seen no more. The fearful shepherds at first durst not approach the Centaur, though dead; till reflecting better on it, they at length resolved to raise a funeral pile to reduce him to ashes; lest his brothers might be informed of what had happened, and should come to revenge his death.

Sublimus carried the little prince to his hut; his wife being sick, his two daughters had not been able to leave her

her to attend the ceremony. 'Here shepherds, (says he) here's a child beloved by the gods, and protected by the fairy Amazona: we must look upon him, for the time to come, as our own, and give him an education that may make him happy.' The wife was pleased with the present: and taking the prince upon the bed, said, 'I will bring him up, and cherish him in his infancy, but must leave the part of his education to yourself.' The shepherd told her that was all he desired, and so left him with her. The two daughters ran presently to see their new brother, were charmed with his incomparable beauty, and the graces that adorned his little body: and from that moment began to learn him to talk. Never was wit more extensive and lively: he comprehended every thing with an ease that amazed all the shepherds: and in a short time was fit to take lessons of the old shepherd himself, who was capable of giving him whatever was excellent. He had been a king of a flourishing nation, but by the intrigues of his ministers with an usurper, his neighbour and enemy, had been surpris'd, with all his family, and made a prisoner in a strong fortress, there to end his days in misery.

So sudden and unexpected a change was not able to shock the virtue of the king and queen in the least? they bore all the outrages of the tyrant with an unparalleled constancy and firmness of mind. The queen, who was big with child when these misfortunes came upon them, was brought to bed of a daughter, which she was obliged to nurse herself, as well as to take care of her two others, who partook as much of their troubles as their age would admit. The king, after three years confinement, gained one of his guards, who promised to bring him a boat under the window of the room he was imprisoned in, to cross the lake, which this fortress stood in the midst of; and provided him with files to cut the iron-bars with, and cords to let themselves down by. They made choice of a dark night, and did all without any noise; and by the assistance of this foldier, slid down by the rope. The king went first, then

then the two children, after them the queen, and after her the little babe in a basket: but, alas! the knot whereby it was fastened slipped, they heard her fall into the lake; the queen, had she not swooned, would certainly have alarmed the garrison with her cries and complaints. The king grieved at this accident, and sought for her as much as the darkness of the night would let him, and found the basket, but none of the princess; so that giving her up for lost, he rowed away as fast as he was able, with the rest of his family; and when they came to the other side, found horses, which were provided by the same soldier, and laid ready for them to go where they pleased.

During their confinement, the king and queen had time to moralize and reflect, that the greatest blessings this life affords were but small, when justly weighed; which, together with the new misfortune of losing their little daughter, made them resolve not to retire to any neighbouring prince or ally, to whom they might be chargeable, but to settle in some fertile and pleasant plain; there to change the sceptre for a shepherd's crook, and buy a flock of sheep. And having pitched on this country, they built a pretty cottage, which was sheltered from the weather by the mountains that were behind it, and rendered pleasant by a pretty brook that ran before it. Here they enjoyed more tranquillity than upon their throne. There were none that envied their poverty: they feared no traitors nor flatterers, and passed their days free from trouble.—The king would often say, 'Ah! how happy might men be, could they cure themselves of ambition! I have been a king, but now prefer my cottage before the palace, wherein I once reigned.' Under this great philosopher this young prince, ignorant of his master's rank, received his education, while the master was no better informed of his pupil's; but his dispositions were so noble, that he could not believe him of mean birth. He observed with pleasure, that he always put himself at the head of his companions, and with an air of superiority, drew respect from them:

them: he was continually forming armies, building forts, and attacking them, and whenever his father (as we must call him) took him along with him a hunting, would face the greatest dangers. All these things persuaded him, that he was born to command: but till he arrives at fifteen years of age let us leave him to his studies, and return to his father's court.

The crook-backed prince, seeing that his father grew very old, shewed little regard to him, and grew so impatient to wear his crown, that to divert himself, and not to lie idle, he asked the king for an army, to go and conquer a neighbouring kingdom, whose factions invited him. The king consented, on condition that he would sign an instrument to all the lords of the kingdom, signifying, that if ever the young prince returned, and that they were well assured that it was him, by the arrow on his arm, to resign the crown to him. The prince seemed very ready, being assured of his brother's death, and thinking he hazarded nothing, but at the same time valued himself very much on this piece of compliance. When this was done, and registered in the proper courts, and the instrument itself laid up in the treasury, the king raised a gallant army, which the prince, after taking his leave of him, put himself at the head of; and, after several battles, killed the king his enemy, with his own hand, took the capital city, and having left a garrison and governor in it, he returned home to his father, to whom he presented a young princess, called Carpillona, whom he had taken captive. She was as beautiful as nature could form, or imagination represent. The king, at the first sight of her, was charmed, and the crooked prince, who had beheld her often, was so much in love with her, that he could not rest: She hated him as much as he loved her: for as he always used her as his slave, her heart was so set against him, and his manner of address, that she did what she possibly could to avoid him.

The king appointed her an apartment in the palace, and women to wait on her, and was very sensible of the misfortunes of so young and beautiful a princess.—

And

And when the crooked prince asked his consent to marry her, he replied, he consented, provided she had no reluctance: but that he thought, when he was nigh her, she seemed melancholy. 'Tis because she loves me, (answered the prince) and dares not discover it, and the constraint she puts upon herself occasions it, but as soon as she shall be my wife, you shall see she will be pleased.' 'I would believe so, (said the king) but don't you flatter yourself a little too much?' The prince, angry at these his father's doubts, went and told the princess, that she was the cause that the king shewed a more than usual severity in his behaviour towards him. Upon which he suspected he might love her, and therefore desired her to tell him sincerely, which of them she approved best of, assuring her, that provided she reigned, he should be content. This he said only to know her sentiments, and not with any intent of changing his. The young Carpillona, who was not yet so experienced as to know that most lovers are dissemblers, gave into the deceit, and said; 'I must own, sir, that was I my own mistress, I would neither make choice of the king nor yourself; but since my bad fortune imposes this hard necessity upon me, I must tell you, the king.'— 'And why; (answered he with some violence) because (added she) he is more mild than you, reigns at this time, and will not live so long. Ha! ha! (cried he) you will be left queen-dowager in a short time: but satisfy yourself you shall not: the king has no thoughts of you, 'tis only I that do you that honour, which is much more than you deserve, for your ingratitude is immense: but where it a thousand times more than it is, you should be my wife.' The princess Carpillona conceived, but somewhat too late, that it was dangerous to speak one's thoughts: and to make amends for what she had so unwarily said, replied again, 'I only used this stratagem to try your sentiments; and I am very glad that you love me so well, to withstand my affected severities. I esteem you already; endeavour, sir, to make me love you.'—

The

The prince bowed, and believed what she said to be truth; men being generally great fools when in love, and too apt to flatter themselves. Carpillona, by this means, made him as mild as a lamb; and he went away smiling, and squeezed her hand so hard, she thought he had broke it.

As soon as he was gone, she ran into the king's apartment, and casting herself at his feet, said, 'Secure me, sir, from the greatest of all misfortunes: the prince would marry me, and I must confess he is odious to me; but not so unjust as he is. My rank, my youth, and the misfortunes of my family, deserve the pity of so great a king.' Fair princess, (said the king) I am not surpris'd that my son loves you, none that behold you can avoid it; but I shall not forgive him the want of respect he owes you. — Ah! sir, (replied she) he looks upon me as his prisoner, and treats me like a slave.' 'It was with my army (answered the king) that he vanquished the king your father, and if you are a captive, you are mine, and I give you your liberty; and am happy, that my advancing age, and grey hairs, secure me from being your slave.' The grateful princess returned the king a thousand thanks, and retired with her woman.

In the mean time the prince, having been informed of what had passed, repented it very much; but his rage was worked up to the highest pitch, when the king forbid him to think any more of the princess: telling him that after all the services he had offered her, she could not love him. 'What (answered he) shall I labour all my days to no purpose? I love not to lose my time after such a manner.' 'I am sorry you should, (said the king) but it must not be.' — We shall see that (said the prince, in an insolent manner, and going out of the room) do you think to take my prisoner from me? I'll lose my life first. — She you call your prisoner, (said the enraged king) was mine and now is free: I have made her mistress of herself, and not to depend on your caprice.' —

So

So smart a conversation had gone further, had not the prince retired, who from that moment conceived a desire to take possession of the crown and princess.— He had gained the hearts of the soldiers, and ill designing people were assisting to his ambition, that the king at last was informed of his intentions of dethroning him; and knowing him to have the army on his side, was forced to take the mildest measures. He sent for the prince, and said to him, ‘Is it possible that you should be so ungrateful, as to take from me my crown, and set it upon your own head, since you see I am so nigh my end? have I not had misfortunes enough already, by losing a wife and son? Indeed I have opposed your designs upon the princess Carpillona, but as much for your sake as hers: for how can you be happy with a princess that does not love you? but since you will run the risque of it, I consent you shall marry her: but let me have sometime to talk to her to prepare her for it.

The prince, who wished more for the princess than the kingdom, (for he had that which he lately conquered) told the king, that he was not so desirous of reigning as he believed, since he had signed an act, whereby he disinherited himself, in case his brother returned, and so should rest satisfied, provided he might marry Carpillona. The king embraced him, and went to the princess, who was always with her governess in cruel alarms, whom she had then carried into her closet, and crying bitterly, said, ‘Should it be possible, that after all the promises the king had made, he should be so cruel as to sacrifice me to his crooked back son, the day of my nuptials would be the last I should breathe: since I am more displeased with the ill quality of his heart, than the deformity of his body.’ ‘Alas! my dear princess, (replied the governess) you know, undoubtedly, that the daughters of the greatest kings are always made victims to the state: they never consult their inclination, nor whether the prince that is to espouse them be handsome or deformed.’ And just as Carpillona was about

about to reply, she was told that the king waited for her in her chamber. As soon as she set her eyes on him, she knew what he came about, having a great penetration, and cried out, 'Alas! what have you to tell me?'

'Fair princess, (said he) look not on your marriage with my son as a misfortune, but consent willingly; the violence that he commits, in regard to your sentiments for him, shews but the ardour of his own: and if he loved you not, he might find more princesses, who would be glad to partake with him a crown, which he is already in possession of, besides that which he will have after my death. Your disdain and contempt have not been able to dismay him, and you ought to believe that he will forget nothing to please you. I flattered myself (replied she) to have found a protector in you, but my hopes are deceived: you abandon me, but the just gods will not.' 'If you knew but all I have done (replied he) to prevent this marriage, you would be convinced of my friendship. Alas! heaven blessed me with a son who was nursed by his own mother; but he was stole away one night, and a cat put in his place, which bit the queen so cruelly, that she died of it. If that lovely child had not been taken from me, he would have been now a comfort to me in my old age: my subjects would have feared him, and I might have offered you my crown with him. This son would not then have carried things so high as now, but would have thought himself happy to live at court.' 'I am then the cause of what has befallen you, (answered she) since he would have been so serviceable to me, look upon me as the guilty wretch, and think of punishing me, rather than marrying me.' You was not then capable, fair princess (said he) of doing good or harm: I accuse you not of my misfortunes; but if you would not augment them, prepare yourself to receive my son: for he is too powerful here, and may act some tragic scene.'

The king seeing she returned no other answer, but was all in tears, left her; and knowing the prince would

would be impatient, went and told him that the princess had given her consent, and bid him make every thing ready against the solemnization of the marriage. The prince transported with joy, thanked the king, and immediately sent for jewellers, and allsorts of tradesmen, and bespoke all the finest things imaginable: and then sent her several rich presents of jewels, &c. which she received with all appearance of joy.— Afterwards he paid her a visit himself, and among other things said, ‘ Was you not very much in the wrong, madam, to refuse the honour I would do you, since I am not disagreeable in my person, and the world says I have wit: besides, you shall have the finest diamonds, and wear the richest clothes of any queen in the world.’ The princess answered coldly, that the misfortunes of her family would not permit her to dress like other princesses, and desired him not to make so great presents.’ ‘ You are in the right, (said he) not to dress yourself, if I do not give you leave: but you must think of pleasing me: every thing will be ready for our marriage within four days: divert yourself till then, and command here, since you are absolute mistress.’ And after that left her.

No sooner was he gone, but she shut herself up with her governess, and told her she might chuse whether she would find her the means of escaping, or those of killing herself on the wedding-day. After the governess had represented to her the impossibility of getting away, and the weakness she shewed, by killing herself, to avoid the misfortunes of this life; she endeavoured to persuade her, that virtue might contribute to her tranquillity, and that without having an entire love for the prince, she might esteem him enough to live happy with him. Carpillona could not yield to any of these remonstrances: but told her, that till then she made account she had some value for her, but that now she was sensible how much it was; and that if all the world should fail her, she would not be failing to herself; and that dangerous diseases must have dangerous remedies. After this she opened the window, and
looking

looking some time out of it, her governess, who fearing she designed to throw herself out, fell on her knees, and looking tenderly on her, said, Alas! madam, 'what would you have me do? I will obey you, though 'it should cost me my life.' The princess embraced her, and desired her to buy her a shepherdes's dress, and a cow, and not amuse herself with persuading her from her design, since it would be to no purpose, and only losing time; and not only that, but to dress up a figure, and lay it in her bed, and say she was ill.—

'You know madam, (said the poor governess) the danger to which I expose myself; the prince, without doubt, will know that I assisted you: he will make use of a thousand torments to make me confess: and then judge if my love is not great.' The princess, very much confounded, made answer, that she should go away herself two days after, and that it would be easy to impose on the world for that short time. In short they contrived it so well, that Carpillona had that night both a shepherdes's habit and a cow, and appeared as beautiful as the queen of love, when she appeared with Juno and Pallas in that habit, to Paris, on mount Ida. She set out by moon-light, sometimes leading her cow, and sometimes getting on her back: and if the least breath of air but gently agitated the leaves of the trees, a bird flew off her nest, or any thing stirred, she feared it might be the wolves or thieves.

Thus she travelled all the night, and would have done the next day, but that her cow stopped to graze on a pleasant mead: where the princess, fatigued with the weight of her clothes and shoes, sat herself down on the grass by a pulsing stream, and tied up her hair, which had got out from under her cap, and fell in flowing ringlets on her shoulders. She looked about, to see if she might not be observed: but for all her precaution, she was surprised by a lady all in armour, who, taking off her head-piece, which was gold, adorned with diamonds, said, 'shepherdes, I am very dry and weary, will you give me some milk to quench my thirst?' 'With all my heart, madam, (said Carpillona)

‘loña) if I had any thing to put it in.’ ‘I have here a china dith: (said the armed lady) take that.’— But the poor princels not knowing how to stroke the teat; ‘What, (said the lady) is your cow dry, or do you not know how to milk her?’ Hereupon, the princels, ashamed to appear so awkward before such an extraordinary person, fell a crying, and replied: ‘I must own, madam, for the small time I have been a shepherdess it has been my business to feed my cow; my mother does all the rest.’ ‘Then you have a mother, (continued the lady) and pray what does she do?’ she is a farmer,’ (said Carpillona.) ‘What hard by?’ (said the lady again.) ‘Yes,’ (replied the princels) really (said she) I have a great affection for her upon your account, and will go to see her; lead me to her.’ Carpillona was at a stand what answer to make, she was unused to lie, and knew not that she talked to a fairy: she looked down, her colour came into her face, and at last she said, ‘When once I come abroad, I never return till night; therefore I desire you, madam, not to make my mother angry with me.’ ‘Ah! princels, princels (said the fairy) you cannot support a lie, nor act the person you pretend to be, without my assistance. Here take this nosegay of gilliflowers, and be assured that while you have it the crooked back prince, from whom you fly, will never know you; and remember, when you come to the great forest, to inform yourself of them whereabouts the shepherd Sublimus has his abode. Tell him that you came from the Fairy Amazona, who desires him to receive you as his daughter. Farewell, Carpillona, I have been your friend a long time.’— ‘Alas! madam, cried the princels, do you love me, and can you abandon me, when I stand so much in need of your assistance?’ ‘The nosegay will not fail you, (said she;) my time is precious, and I must leave you to complete your destiny.’ And as she uttered these words, disappeared.

Carpillona was ready to die with fear, but recovering herself, continued on her way, though ignorant of the road

road that led to the great forest; thinking to herself, that this able fairy would conduct her thither, and always kept the nosegay in her hand, whether she stood still or walked: but at last, her feet was so chafed and sore, that she was forced to lie down under the shade of some trees: where she reflected often, and with no small uneasiness, on her poor governess, of whose zeal and fidelity there are but few examples. She dressed up a figure, as the princess had ordered her, went always very softly into her room, as she said, for fear of disturbing her, and scolded at the least noise that ever was made. The King, when he was told of the princess's being sick, was not at all surpris'd, attributing it to her grief and the violence offered; but as soon as the prince was informed of this ill news, his chagrin was inconceivable; he would see her, but the governess, with much ado, prevented him. Then he asked that his physician might; but she told him, it would be the means to kill her, for she hated all physicians and their remedies; but withal, bid him not be frightened, telling him, it was only a dizziness of her head, and that she would be well, after three or four days rest: by which means she put a stop to any further importunities. When one night, when she was preparing for her flight, she heard him knock at the door, as if he would break it down: and what induced him to this violence, was an information he had had of the matter from the other women; who perceived the deceit, and fearing some punishment might fall to their share, went and told him presently. The excess of his rage could not be expressed: he ran to the king, thinking he was not ignorant of it, but found by the surprise he read in his face himself to be mistaken.—As soon as he saw the poor governess, he said to her, catching hold of her hair; 'Give me my Carpillona, or I'll tear out thy heart.' She made no reply, but with tears; and prostrating herself at his knees, conjured him, but all in vain, to hear her. He cast her into a deep dungeon, and had put her to death a thousand times;

times, had not the king, who was as good as his son was wicked, obliged him to let her live in that frightful prison.

This amorous and violent prince, ordered that the princess should be pursued both by sea and land; and to that end, left the court himself, and ran about like a mad man. When one day, as Carpillana was sat with her cow under a large rock, and the weather being very tempestuous, she remained trembling at the thunder and lightning, when the crooked-back prince came thither, with his attendants for shelter.— But, alas! when she saw him so nigh her, she was more frightened, than at the thunder and lightning: she held her nosegay of gilliflowers fast with both her hands; and remembering the fairy said, ‘Abandon me not, charming Amazona.’ The prince casting his eyes upon her, said, ‘What can you be afraid of, poor despicable old wretch? where would be the hurt if the thunder should kill thee, since thou hast one foot in the grave already?’ The young princess was not less overjoyed than amazed, to hear him call her old: ‘Without doubt, (said she to herself) my nosegay works this wonder.’ And that she might have no farther conversation with him, she pretended to be deaf. The prince, finding she could not hear, said to his confident, who was never from him: ‘Now if my heart was a little more gay, I could set this old creature upon the top of the rock, and have the pleasure of seeing her roll down and break her neck.’ But, sir, (repined this wicked favourite) to divert you, I’ll carry her up by force, and you shall see her body bound like a ball.’ ‘We have not time, (said he) we must continue our search after this ingrate, who disturbs the repose of my life.’

As he made an end of these words, he clapped spurs to his horse, and rode off. It is easy to judge of the joy of the princess, who did not forget to thank the fairy Amazona, whose power she was then sensible of.— She pursued her journey, and arrived at the plain whereon the shepherds of that country built their huts, which

which were all very pretty, each having a garden and a spring. The valley of Tempe could not be more agreeable. The shepherdesses were for the most part beautiful, and the shepherds neglected nothing to please them. On all the trees, cyphers and love verses were engraved. As soon as Carpillona appeared among them, they left their flocks; and prepossessed with her beauty and majestic air, advanced towards her; but what surprised them most, was the meanness of her habit: for though they lived in innocence and rustic life, yet they pretended very much to a neat adjustment of their apparel. The princess desired them to shew her the shepherd Sublimus's cottage; which they did presently: and there she found the good old man sat in the valley with his wife and daughters, a little brook running by them, which charmed with its gentle murmurs; he had some reeds in his hands, with which he was making a little basket to gather fruit in; and his wife was spinning, while his daughters were angling in the brook.

When Carpillona first accosted them, she was sensible of so much respect and tenderness, that she was herself surprised; and when they saw her, they were no less affected. 'I am (said she) saluting them in an humble manner, a poor shepherdess, and come from the fairy Amazona, to offer you my service, and hope, that upon her account you will receive me.' 'Child, (said the king, getting up, and returning her salute in as civil a manner) that great fairy has reason to believe that we have a perfect honour for her; but you are welcome if you had no other recommendation than your own person.' 'Come here pretty maid, (said the queen, holding out her hand) come, and let me kiss you: I conceive a great kindness for you, and could wish you would look upon me as your own mother, and my children as your sisters.' 'Alas! my good mother, (said the princess) I desire not that honour, it is enough for me to be your shepherdess, and tend your flock.' 'No, (replied the king) we are all equal here, you come with too good a recommendation

' mendment for us to make any difference between
' you and our children; sit down by us, and let your
' cow feed with our sheep.' She made some difficulty,
persisting in what she told them first, that she was come
only to be their servant; but would have been very
much embarrassed if they had taken her at her word:
for indeed, by her looks, she seemed to be made more
to command than to obey; and it might be thought,
that so great a fairy would not protect an ordinary
person.

The king and queen looked upon her with an amaze-
ment mixed with admiration, which they could not
comprehend: they asked her if she came a great way;
she said, yes, and then, if she had a father and mother?
to which she said, no: and answered all their other ques-
tions with monosyllables, as much as her respect would
allow her to do. 'What is your name, (said the
queen?)' Carpillona (replied she.) 'The name (said
the king) is very odd; and, unless some adventure
' gives room for it, it is very rare.' She made no an-
swer, but took up one of the queen's spindles, to wind
off the thread; but when she drew off her gloves, the
king and queen, who cast their eyes upon her hands,
thought them to be snow, formed in that shape; and to
penetrate farther into her condition, said: 'Carpillona,
' your clothes are too hot for the climate we live in,
' and your shoes too heavy and clumsy for so young
' a damsel; you must be dressed after our manner.'—
' My clothes, mother (answered she) are such as they
' wear in my country; but I'll put on what you please
' to order me.' They admired her obedience, and
above all, the air of modesty that appeared in her
eyes and all her actions; but, it being supper-time, they
got up, and went all into the house, where they intended
to dress the fish that the two princesses had caught, and
some fresh eggs, and to make the rest up with milk and
fruit. 'I am surprised (said the king) that my son
' is not yet come home: his eagerness after sport car-

'ries him too far; and I am always in fear, lest some
'accident should befall him.' 'My fears were no
'less than yours, (said the queen) but if you please,
'we will not sup till he comes. No, (said the king)
'let him mind his time better: on the contrary, I de-
'sire you, when he comes, not to speak to him, but
'that every one give him a cold reception. 'You
'know his good nature (said the queen) and he will be
'so much troubled, that he will fall sick.' 'I cannot
'help that, (said the king) he must be corrected.'—
After this discourse, they sat down to supper; but before
they had quite done, the young prince came in, with
a wild roe on his shoulders, his hair all wet with sweat,
and his face covered with dust; he leaned on a little
lance he generally carried along with him; his bow
hung on one side, and his quiver of arrows on the other.
In this condition there appeared something so noble
and lofty in his countenance and mien, that none could
look upon him without attention and respect: 'Mo-
'ther, (said he, addressing himself to the queen) my
'desire to bring you this roe, has made me run all
'day over the mountains and plains.' 'on, (said the
king gravely) you endeavour more to make us uneasy
'than to please us; you know how much I have said
'to you on your violent desire of sport; but you are
'resolved to take no notice of it.' The prince blushed,
and what vexed him most, was, to see a person there,
'who did not belong to their family. He replied,
that another time he would come sooner; or if he did
not approve of it, he would not go at all. 'That is
'enough (said the queen, who loved him tenderly)
'I thank you child for your present; come and sit by
'me, and eat your supper; for to be sure, you must
be hungry.' The prince was somewhat disordered
at the serious air the king spoke to him in, and durst
not look up; for though he was intrepid in all dangers,
he was of a docile temper, and stood in great awe,
where his duty required it of him. But at last, he re-
covered

covered out of his confusion, sat down by the queen, and casting his eyes on Carpillona, who had not stayed so long to look at him; but as soon as their eyes met, their hearts were so agitated, that they knew not what to attribute their disorder to. The princess blushed, and the prince kept his eye stedfast upon her; till at last, she raised hers again with a pleasing softness, they continued looking at each other with a mutual surprise, thinking nothing could equal what they beheld.—

‘It is possible, (said the princess to herself) that, of so many persons I have seen at court, none should come nigh to this young shepherd.’ ‘How comes it, (thought he to himself) that this admirable maid is but a poor shepherdess! ah! that I was but a king, to place her on a throne, and to make her as much the mistress of my empire as she is of my heart.’—

In musing after this manner, he eat nothing. The queen, who thought it owing to the ill reception he met with, tired herself with inviting and caressing him, and brought out the finest fruits she had. He desired Carpillona to taste of them. She thanked him, and told him, without thinking on the hand that gave them, that she had done nothing but eat, and cared for no more.— Upon which, he left them coldly upon the table. The queen took not the least notice of all this; but the eldest princess, who had no small esteem for him, and who perhaps might have loved him very well, but for the difference she thought between them, observed all that passed with some jealousy.

After supper the king and queen retired, and the princesses, according to their usual custom, did whatever was to be done in the house: one milk’d the cows, the other pressed the cheese, &c. Carpillona busied herself after their example to work; but she was so little used to it, that she did nothing to the purpose: insomuch that the two princesses called her the pretty unhandy maid. The amorous prince helped her in every thing: he went to the spring with her, carried her pail, drew

the water, and brought it back on his shoulders, and would not suffer her to carry any thing: 'What do you mean, shepherd, (said she to him) must I act the fine lady? I that have been used all my life to work! am I to live here in idleness?' 'You shall do what you please, lovely shepherdes, (said he) but deny me not the pleasure of accepting my small assistance on these occasions.' Afterwards they both returned, though sooner than he desired; for though he durst not yet hardly speak to her, nevertheless, he was overjoyed to be with her. They both passed the night in an uneasiness, which neither of them, through their little experience, could guess the cause of. The prince waited impatiently for day, to see the shepherdes again; and she was in as much dread. The new trouble the sight of him put her into, somewhat diverted her other displeasures: and she thought so much of him, that she almost forgot the crooked-backed prince. 'Why, (said she) has blind fortune bestowed so many graces, such a mien, and such charms on a young shepherd, who is destined only to feed his flock: and so much malice and deformity on a prince appointed to rule a flourishing nation?'

Carpillona never had the curiosity to view herself since her metamorphosis from a princess into a shepherdes; but then a certain desire of pleasing, made her seek after a glass. She was not long before she found that of the princess's; but when she saw herself she was quite confounded. 'What a figure's here? (cried she) who am I like; It is impossible that I should endure to be buried long in this coarse stuff.' Then she washed her face and hands, and went to the queen, and falling on her knees, presented her with a fine diamond ring, which was part of the jewels she brought along with her. 'Mother, I found this ring some time since, but know not the value of it, but believe it may be worth some money: I beg you would accept of it, as a proof of my acknowledgement for your charity

‘ rity towards me ; and likewise, I desire you to buy
 ‘ me a habit, and linen that I may appear like the
 ‘ other shepherdesses of this country.’ The queen was
 very much surprised to see so noble a ring, and told
 her that she would not take it, but would keep it for
 her, and that she would send to a little town that was
 hard by, for a nice country habit, shoes, &c. complete.

When Carpillona was thus dressed, she appeared
 more charming than Aurora. The prince neglected
 nothing on his part, but adorned his hat, scrip, and
 crook with flowers, and carried her a nosegay, which
 he presented with all the fear of a lover, and which she
 received with some consternation, though she wanted
 not presence of mind nor wit. When she was with
 him, she hardly ever spoke, but was always very
 thoughtful, as was he himself. When he went a hun-
 ting, instead of pursuing his game, whenever he found
 a place proper to entertain himself with the thoughts of
 his beloved Carpillona, he would stop all on a sudden,
 and in that solitary retirement make verses and songs
 on his shepherdess, often talking to the rocks, woods,
 and birds: and in short he lost all that gaiety of temper
 which made him seek after the company of the young
 shepherdesses. But as it is hard to love, and not fear
 what we love, he dreaded so much the making his
 shepherdess angry, by declaring himself, that he
 durst scarce ever speak to her; and though she observed
 very well, that he preferred her before all others, and
 that preference ought to assure her of his sentiments,
 yet she could not but be in some pain for his silence.—
 Sometimes she would be overjoyed, and would say to
 herself, ‘ If he really does love me, how shall I receive
 ‘ the declaration of his passion? if I should be angry,
 ‘ I perhaps shall be the cause of his death; and if I be
 ‘ not, I shall die myself with shame and grief. What!
 ‘ shall I, who am born a princess, hearken to a poor
 ‘ shepherd? ah! too base weakness, I shall never con-

‘ sent. My heart ought not to change with my apparel; I have but too much to reproach myself with, ‘ since I have been here.’ As the prince had a thousand natural charms in his voice, and perhaps had he not sung so well, the princess prepossessed in his favour, would have liked to hear him; she would often engage him to sing; and the songs he made choice of, had always something so tender and engaging in them, that she could not forbear expressing pleasure, which inspired him with the more boldness; and one day he went to the river-side, to a place shaded by osiers and willows, and whither he knew that Carpillona led her flock every day; and with a nail wrote on the bark of one of the trees these lines.

*In this retreat, in vain do I
Find peace and pleasure reign:
Where love, the freedom of a sigh,
Denies to ease my pain.*

The princess surprised him just as he had made an end; he affected to seem confounded, and after some moments of silence said to her, ‘ You see an unhappy shepherd, who complains to the most insensible things, ‘ when he ought to complain to none but you,’— She made no answer, but casting down her eyes, gave him the opportunity he wanted to declare his sentiments. While he was speaking, her thoughts were wholly taken up, how she ought to take what she heard from a mouth, that was not indifferent to her; but her inclination engaged her to excuse him.— ‘ He is ignorant (said she to herself) of my birth: ‘ therefore his temerity is pardonable: he loves me, ‘ and thinks me is equal; but should he know my ‘ rank.—Will not the gods themselves, who are so much ‘ above us, will not they accept of the hearts of mortals? Are they angry because they are loved? Well, ‘ shepherd, (said she, turning herself towards him) ‘ I pity you, and that is all I can do for you: ‘ I

‘ I will not love, I have misfortunes enough already. Alas! what would be my condition, if to augment my calamities, my days should be burthened with an engagement?’ Ah! shepherdefs, (cried he) say rather, that if you have any troubles, nothing is more capable to sweeten them. I will partake of all of them, my study shall be to please you, you may repose on me the care of your flock.’ ‘ I wish to heaven, (said she) that I had no other reason to be uneasy.’ ‘ What others can you have (said he with an eager concern) being so beautiful, so young, so free from ambition, and so little versed with the vain grandeurs of a court? but without doubt, you love here some happy rival, which renders you inexorable towards me.’ Pronouncing these last words he changed countenance, became melancholy, and was cruelly tormented with his thought. ‘ I will there agree with you (replied she) you have a rival: but then he is one hated and abhorred; you had never seen me, but that the necessity of avoiding his pressing instances obliged me to fly from him.’ ‘ Perhaps, shepherdefs, (said he) you will fly from me too; for if you hated him only because he loved you, I am sure, I am to be hated the most of all men.’ ‘ Whither it be, (replied she) that I do not believe him, or that I look more favourably upon you, I am sensible I shall not fly from you, as I have done from him.’—The shepherd was transported with joy at these obliging words, and from that day neglected no opportunity to please the princess.

Every day he gathered the finest flowers to make garlands for her, and adorned her crook with ribbons. He never would suffer her to be exposed to the sun; but whenever she came along the river-side with her flock, he would cut down branches of trees, and form an arbour wherever there was a pleasant situation.—All the trees thereabouts, bore her cyphers, and verses in praise of her beauty. The young princess saw all

these testimonies of the shepherd's passion; she loved secretly, but durst never examine her heart, for fear of finding there sentiments too tender. The young shepherd's love for his shepherdess could not long be kept secret, but was discovered, as well as applauded by every one; for who could find fault where all was love? all who saw them said, they were born for each other; that they were both perfect beauties; that it was the work of the gods, that fortune made their country so happy; and that they must neglect nothing to detain them. Carpillona felt a secret joy to hear the public praises in favour of a swain she thought so amiable; but then thinking of the difference that was between them she was somewhat shagrin'd, but purpos'd not to discover who she was, that she might indulge her heart the more. The king and queen, who were extremely fond of them both, were no ways displeas'd at this growing passion: they look'd on the prince as their own son, and were no less taken with the perfections of the shepherdess. Was she not sent by Amazona, said they, who fought the Centaur? without doubt, that wise fairy had destin'd them for each other; therefore we must wait her orders.

Things were in this condition: the prince complain'd always of Carpillona's indifference, because she carefully conceal'd her sentiments from him; when being one day out a hunting, he could not avoid a furious bear, that came suddenly out of the hollow of a rock, and had devour'd him, had not his courage been seconded by his activity. After having struggled a long time upon the top of the mountain, they both at last roll'd down together. Carpillona at that very time was stopp'd with her companions in that place, yet could not see what pass'd on the top of the hill: but what a condition were they all in, when they saw a man and a bear tumbling down together? the princess soon knew her shepherd, and sent out cries of fear and grief? all the shepherdesses ran away; but love redoubling the
princess's

princess's courage, she was so bold as to run the iron of her crook down into the terrible monster's throat, and so gave her lover some assistance; who when he saw her, for fear she might partake of his danger, raised his courage to such a height, that he no longer thought of preserving his own life, but only to secure hers; and indeed killed his enemy just at her feet: at the same time he fell down half dead with the loss of blood from two wounds he had received.

How cruel a sight was it for her to see his clothes all died with blood! she could not speak; her face was drowned with tears; she laid his head in her lap, and all on a sudden breaking silence, said, 'Shepherd, if you die, I'll die with you: in vain have I concealed my secret thoughts: know then now, that my life is attached to yours.' 'What can I wish for more, fair shepherdess? (cried he in a faint voice) What ever befalls me, my fate now will always be happy.'—

By this time the shepherdesses who fled, returned with several shepherds, and assisted the prince and princess, who by that time was in as bad a condition: but while they were cutting down the branches of the trees to make a sort of litter for them, the Fairy Amazona appeared among them. 'Be not concerned (said she) let me touch the young shepherd.' Then taking him by the hand, and putting her golden casque upon his head, she said, 'Dear shepherd, I forbid thee from being sick.' Hereupon he soon got up, and the visor of the casque being up, there appeared a martial air in his face; and his eyes, which were bright and lively, answered the hopes which the fairy conceived. He was amazed at the manner of his cure, and the majesty that appeared throughout her whole person; and transported with admiration, joy, and acknowledgement, cast himself at her feet: 'Great queen (said he) I was dangerously wounded; one glance from your eyes, and one word from your mouth has cured me. But alas! I have

‘ a wound in my heart that I will not be cured of; , vouchsafe only to alluage the pain, and mend my fortune, since I cannot partake it, such as it is, with this fair shepherdess.’ The princess blushed to hear him speak after this manner: she knew that the fairy Amazona was not ignorant who she was, and feared lest she should blame her for giving hopes to a lover so much below her; infomuch that she durst not look up: but sighs that escaped her breast, raised some pity in that of the fairy’s. ‘ Carpillona (said she) this shepherd is not unworthy your esteem. And you, shepherd, who desire so much the change of your condition, assure yourself of a most illustrious fate, and then she disappeared: The shepherds and shepherdesses conducted them back in triumph to their hamlet, placing the two lovers in the midst of them, and crowned them with flowers, as a token of the victory they had gained over the terrible bear, which they brought after them, singing verses on the tenderness of Carpillona to the prince.

When they came to the shepherd Sublimus, they told him all that had happened; with what courage the shepherd had defended himself against the bear, and with what generosity the shepherdess had assisted him; and in short what the fairy Amazona had done. The king overjoyed at this relation, run to acquaint the queen of it. ‘ Without doubt, (said he) this boy and girl are above the vulgar; their eminent perfections, their beauty, and the care of the fairy Amazona, shews something extraordinary.’ This discourse put the queen in mind of the diamond ring Carpillona had given her. ‘ I have always forgot, (said she to shew you a ring which this young shepherdess put into my hands, with an uncommon air of grandeur, desiring me to accept of it, and to furnish her for it with such clothes as they wear in this country.’ ‘ Is the stone fine (replied the king.) ‘ I never looked much at it (said the queen) but here it is;’ and presented it to him. No sooner had he fixed his eyes on it, but

but he cried out, 'ye gods! what is this I behold? What do you not know a present which I received from your hands?' At the same time he touched a little spring, the diamond flew up, and the queen saw her own picture, which she had drawn to give to the king; and which she had tied about her little daughter's neck for her to play with, when she nursed her in the tower.

'Alas! my dear, (said she) what strange adventure is this? it renews all my griefs. But let us talk to the shepherdess, and endeavour to learn more.' Upon this she called Carpillona, and said, I have waited till now, child, for a confession from you; which would have given me much more pleasure, had it come from you without being pressed to it; But since you still continue to conceal from us who you are, it is proper that we inform you that we know, and that the ring you gave me has discovered this riddle.' 'Alas! mother, (replied the princess, falling on her knees by her) it was not for want of confidence that I concealed my rank from you, but that I thought it might be a trouble to you to see a princess reduced to my condition.'

'My father was king of the Peaceable Islands: but his reign being disturbed by an usurper, he, and my mother, were both confined in a strong tower. -- After three years imprisonment, they found the means, by the assistance of one of their guards, and the favour of the night, to escape. They let me down in a basket; but the cord breaking, I fell into the lake which surrounded the castle, where I was taken up by some fishermen, who just then were drawing their nets, which they had thrown out for some carp, which the moat was well stored with. But, alas, how were the fishermen deceived in their hopes! for by my weight they were in expectation of a good draught. When they first saw me, they thought of throwing me in again; but at last they resolved to leave me in the net, and carry me to the tyrant; who, being

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informed

• informed of the flight of my family, knew me to be
• an unhappy destitute princess. His, wife, who had
• no children, pitying me; and having some inclination
• for me, took me, and brought me up under the name
• of Carpillona, perhaps with a design that I might have
• no notion of my birth: but my heart has always
• told me who I am: And it is sometimes a misfortune
• to have sentiments so little comfortable to one's fortune.
• But as the greatest prosperity is not to be
• depended on, a neighbouring prince, who was crooked,
• and went by the name of the Hump-Backed Prince,
• came at the head of a gallant army deprived the
• usurper of my father's crown of his ill gotten power.
• The change of the tyrant's fortune rendered mine
• still worse; the conqueror took me with him as the
• greatest ornament of his triumph, and determined
• to marry me, whether I consented or not. In this
• extremity I betook myself to flight, dressed like a
• shepherdess and leading a cow; and was met by
• the prince, who undoubtedly had known me again, if
• the fairy Amazona had not generously given me
• a nosegay of gilliflowers to secure me from my enemies.
• Neither, my good mother, (continued the
• princess, did she do a less charitable action in recommending
• me to you; and if I declared not my
• rank sooner, it was not through distrust, but only to
• spare your grief. Not, (pursued she) that I complain;
• for I never knew any tranquillity till the
• day I was received by you; and I must own, that a
• country life is so sweet and innocent, that I prefer
• it before that of a court.'

As she spoke with great earnestness, she observed not that the queen melted into tears, and that the king's eyes watered; but she had no sooner done, than they both strove to clasp her in their arms, where they held her a long time, without being able to pronounce one word.

word. She melted and cried after their example; and it is hard to express the agreeable trouble these three illustrious persons were in. At last the queen making an effort upon herself said, 'Is it possible, my dear child, that after all my sorrow for thy fatal loss, heaven should restore thee to thy mother, to comfort her in her misfortunes. Behold, my child, the breast that suckled thee in thy tender infancy! Behold the king thy father, the author of thy days! With what transport shall we solemnize the return of a child, which heaven in its anger deprived us of?' And I, illustrious mother and queen, (cried the princess, casting herself at her feet) by what expressions and actions shall I make you both understand the love and respect I owe you, since I find you the dear sanctuary to my misfortunes, when I durst not flatter myself with ever seeing you again.' Then they all renewed their caresses, and thus some hours glided away. Carpillona after this retired, having first been forbid by her father and mother to speak of what had passed.

The princess, in regard to indifferent persons, observed their commands punctually, but could not keep the secret from her young shepherd: so hard a thing it is to conceal any thing from a person we love.—She reproached herself a thousand times for not having discovered her birth to him. 'How great would his obligation have been, (said she) if he had known, that, being born to a throne, I could stoop so low as to him: but alas! what difference does love make between a scepter and a crook? Can this chimerical grandeur, which we boast so much of, can it satisfy our souls? no, virtue alone has there a right; it sets us above a crown, and can free us from it; the shepherd that loves me, is wise, witty, and amiable; what can a prince be more?' As she abandoned herself to these reflections, she saw him at her feet, he having followed her to the river-side; and was presented

sented by him with a garland of flowers, the variety of which was charming. ' From whence came you, fair shepherdes (said he) I have been seeking you some hours, and have waited some others with impatience? ' Shepherd, (said she) I have been taken up with a very surprizing adventure, and reproach myself for being so long silent; but remember, that this mark of my confidence requires an eternal secrecy. I am a princess, my father was a king, whom I find in the person of the shepherd Sublimus.' The prince was so confounded and surprised at this news, that he had not power to interrupt her, tho' she related the history of her life with all imaginable beauty: so great were his fears lest this wise shepherd, since he was a king, should refuse him his daughter; or that she reflecting on the difference between a great princess and himself, should fall off some day from these testimonies of kindness she had given him.— Ah! madam, (said the melancholy prince) I am a lost man, I must renounce this life; you are born to a crown, and have found your father and mother. For my part, I am an unhappy wretch, that knows neither his country or relations; an eagle was my nurse, and her nest my cradle: if you have had some favourable regard to me, it will be returned you.' The princess mused a moment or two, and without returning any answer to what he said, took her bodkin out of her hair, and writ on the bark of a tree:

An equal passion can your heart return?

The prince writ immediately this verse:

A thousand times more ardently I burn.

The princess writ under it:

*Thank fortune for this lucky main,
To love and to be lov'd again.*

The prince, transported with joy, cast himself at her feet, and taking one of her hands, said, 'adorable princess, you flatter my afflicted heart, and by this new bounty preserve my life; remember what you have wrote in my favour.' 'I am not capable of forgetting: (said she, with a gracious air) depend upon my heart, it is more interested in your behalf than in my own.' Their conversation, without doubt had been longer, had they had more time; but they were then obliged to gather up their flocks, and return home.

All this time the king and queen conferred together upon Carpillona's behaviour towards the young shepherd. While she was unknown to them, they approved of those growing flames, that kindled in their souls; the perfect beauty wherewith heaven had endowed them, the wit and graces that accompanied all their actions, made them desire an everlasting union: but when they looked upon her with a different eye, as their own daughter, and on the shepherd as an unfortunate babe, exposed to the fury of the wild beasts, they resolved to tell Carpillona, that she should not entertain him any more with flattering hopes, but should declare to him that she would not settle in that country, after this determination of theirs, the queen called her in, and with a great deal of tenderness, told her all that had passed. But what words were capable to calm so violent a disorder? the young princess strove in vain to constrain herself; her face was sometimes as red as scarlet, and another while as pale as death; and the languishing of her eyes discovered but too much the state she was in, ah! how did she then repent her confession? nevertheless she assured her mother, with great submission, that she would obey her commands: and then retiring, had much to do to get to her bed, where bursting into tears, she passed the night in uttering her complaints and regrets.

The

The next morning she arose, to lead her flock to feed; but instead of going towards the river, went directly to a wood, where laying down upon the grass, and leaning upon her elbow she fell into a deep musing; the prince who could not be quiet, when she was not present, sought all about for her, and finding her, presented himself to her sight: who no sooner saw him, but she shrieked out, as if she had been surprised, and rising with precipitation, left him without looking once at him. He stood sometime like one thunder-struck at so unusual a behaviour; but recovering himself, followed her, and stopping her, said, 'What, shepherdess, would you in giving me death, deprive yourself of the pleasure of seeing me expire before your eyes? you have changed in regard to your shepherd, and no longer remember what you promised but yesterday.' 'Alas! (said she, casting her eyes melancholy upon him) what crime do you accuse me of? I am miserable, and tied down by commands, which I cannot evade: pity me, and leave me, wherever you see me,' Must I, (cried he, folding his arms in a fit of despair) must I fly you, divine princess? and can so cruel an order, and so little deserved, be pronounced by you yourself? What would you have become of me? and can that flattering hope, to which you so willing that I should abandon myself extinguish, and I live?' At these words Carpillona, whose grief was no less violent than her lover's, fell speechless, and void of life, at his feet. At which sight he was agitated with a thousand different thoughts; but the condition his beloved mistress was in, told him, that her heart had no part in the orders she then gave him, which diminished in a measure his sorrows: however, he lost not a moment to assist her; a spring which ran softly along the grass, afforded him water to throw in her face, and some Cupids, who were hid behind a bush, have told their comrades since, that he was so bold as to steal a kiss, whether it be true, or not, the charming shepherdess.

shepherdes presently opened her eyes, and pushing her lovely shepherd from her, said, 'Fly, and be gone: how angry will my mother be, if she should come? What (said he) must I leave you then, to be devoured by wolves and bears; or during a long swoon, to be stung in this solitary place by some serpent or aspic.' Yes, (said she) we must hazard all, rather than displease the queen.'

During this conversation, in which their tender looks had no small share, the fairy their protectress appeared in the king's chamber, armed as before, and addressing herself to the queen, said, You are no ways grateful, madam, for the present I made you of your daughter, who would have been drowned in the net, but for me, since you are upon the point of killing with grief the young shepherd (with whom I trusted you:) think not of the difference that may be between him and Carpillona; it is time to unite them: think, illustrious Sublimus (said she to the king) of their marriage; I wish it, and you will have no reason to repent it.' After these words, without waiting for an answer, she left them, nothing remained to their view, but long rays of light, like those of the sun.

The king and queen were equally surpris'd, and both felt a secret joy, that the fairy's commands were so positive. 'It is no longer to be doubted (said the king) but that this unknown shepherd is of a birth agreeable to Carpillona, since their protectrix has too much justice to unite two persons of unequal rank. 'Twas she that saved our child in the lake, where she must inevitably have perished. How have we deserved her protection?' 'I have often heard say, (replied the queen) that there are good and ill fairies, and that they have a friendship or an aversion to families according to their genius, and certainly Amazona is favourable to us.' As they were talking in this manner, the princess came in, a drooping languishing air appearing in her face. The prince, who

who durst not follow her, but at a distance, came sometimes after; but so great a melancholy hung upon him, to know all that passed in his soul; and during dinner time these two lovers, who used to make all the mirth, opened not their mouths, nor durst they so much as look at one another. When the cloth was taken away, the king went into his little garden, and bid the shepherd follow him. At this order he turned pale, an extraordinary shivering glided through all his veins, and Carpillona was afraid her father was going to send him away; so dreadful were both their apprehensions. Sublimus went into a green arbour, where sitting down, and looking upon the prince, he said, 'Son, you know
 ' with what love I have brought you up: I have always
 ' regarded you as a present made me by the gods,
 ' to support and comfort me in my old age; but a
 ' greater proof of my friendship to you, is the choice
 ' I make of you for my daughter Carpillona, the loss
 ' of whom you have heard me so often deplore; but that
 ' same providence that restored her to me, has ordained
 ' her for you.' 'Ah! father, (cried the prince, casting himself at his feet) dare I flatter myself with
 ' what I hear: am I so happy as to be your choice, or
 ' is this only to know my sentiments for that beautiful
 ' shepherdes?' 'No, my dear son, (said the king)
 ' float no longer thus between hope and fear: I am
 ' resolved to celebrate your nuptials within a few
 ' days.' 'You heap too many obligations upon me'
 ' (replied the prince embracing his knees;) and if I
 ' do not sufficiently explain my acknowledgements, it
 ' proceeds from the excess of my joy.' The king made him rise, professed a great value and friendship for him: and though he did not acquaint him with the greatness of his rank, he said enough to let him know, that his birth was much above his present condition.

Carpillona could not be easy, but must follow them into the garden, where she observed all that passed from behind some trees; and seeing her lover at her father's

father's feet, she believed he might be entreating him not to condemn him to a cruel banishment: and desiring to know no more, fled into the forest, running like a fawn before the dogs, fearing neither the fierceness of the wild beasts, nor the thorns or briars, which tore her on all sides. The echoes repeated her complaints, and she seemed to seek nothing but death: In the mean time her shepherd, impatient to tell her the joyful news, made all imaginable haste to follow her, and find her out. 'Where are you my shepherdess, (cried he) where are you, my lovely Carpillona: if you hear me, fly me not, we shall both be happy.' In pronouncing these words, he perceived her, surrounded in a bottom of a vale by several hunters, who were endeavouring to put her behind a little hump-backed man: at this sight, and the cries of his mistress, who wanted assistance, he flew like an arrow out of a bow, and having no other arms but his sling, he let fly a stone, which hit the crooked prince full on his forehead, and knocked him off his horse, who brought the princess down with him. By that time the prince came to them himself, and endeavoured to defend his dear shepherdess against those ravishers; but all his resistance was to no purpose, they took him as well as her, and had sacrificed him to their rage, had not the crooked prince made a sign to them to save him, that he might put him to the most cruel torments: so that they then only contented themselves with binding him and the princess, and in such a manner that they could talk to one another; and after making a sort of a litter to carry their wounded prince in, went away, without being seen by any of the shepherds; who might have given Sublimus an account of the misfortunes of these young lovers. Notwithstanding, we may easily imagine his and the queen's concern, when night came, and they saw them not; who with all the shepherds of that neighbourhood, sought several days for them.

Now

Now before I proceed any further, it will not be amiss to say, that the crooked prince had not forgot Carpillona, and that when he was not employed with the affairs of state, or acting some horrid murder, he used to go a hunting, and stay out for seven or eight days.— It was at one of these long huntings, that he saw the princess cross a path; and the liveliness of her grief made her give so little attention to what might befall her, that she took not the nosegay of gilliflowers with her; so that he knew her as soon as he saw her.

But to return to the shepherd and shepherdess: the shepherd cried out, 'Alas! this is the greatest of all misfortunes; we were just upon the point of being united together;' and then he told her all that passed between Sublimus and him. It is no hard matter to comprehend the regret of Carpillona, who bursting forth a fresh into tears, said, 'I shall cost you your life: I lead you, for whom I would spill the last drop of my blood, to a horrid punishment: I am the cause of this misfortune, and through my own imprudence, have fallen into the inhuman hands of my most cruel persecutor.'

With this kind of discourse they entertained one another, 'till they arrived at the capital city, where the good old king, the father of this wicked and crooked prince, was informed that his son was brought in a litter, having received by a stone out of a sling, a wound from a young shepherd, in defence of a shepherdess, and was in great danger. At this news the king was very much concerned, and ordered the shepherd to be put into a dungeon; and the like fate the princess Carpillona underwent, by a private order of the prince, who resolved to make her consent to marry him, or to put her to the severest torments: but it seemed that these two lovers were only parted by a slight partition, the boards of which being not joined close, they had the satisfaction of seeing each other when the sun shone at noon, and the remainder of their

their time had the more liberty to entertain their sorrows. They said all the tender and passionate things hearts so deeply touched could invent, and expressed themselves in such moving terms, that they often dissolved into tears. The creatures of the prince came every day to the princess, to threaten her with a speedy death, if she did not accept the honour he did her. — She received all their proposals with a firmness of mind, and an air of disdain, inasmuch that they began to despair of their undertaking. ‘ Fear nothing, my dear shepherd, (said she) the dread of the most cruel torments cannot make me unfaithful; we will die together, if we cannot live so.’ ‘ Fair princess (replied he) do you think to comfort me? alas! would it not be more easy to me to see you in the arms of this monster, than in the hands of an executioner?’ In short, these sentiments of his were not relished by her; she accused him of weakness, and assured him she would shew him an example, and die with courage.

The prince’s wound growing better, his love, enraged with a continual denial of the princess, made him resolve to sacrifice her, with the young shepherd, to his rage; and to that end appointed a day for this dismal tragedy, and desired the king, and all the lords of the kingdom, to be present: and for himself he came in an open litter, to glut his eyes with the horrid sight. — The king, not knowing the princess Carpillona was a prisoner, when he saw her bound with her governess, who was condemned to suffer the same fate as herself and shepherd, who appeared as bright as the sun; he ordered them be brought to him upon the terrass, where he was with his court, and not waiting for the princess’s making her complaint, for the ill and bad usage she had had, cut the cords wherewith she was bound, and afterwards looking upon the shepherd, found his bowels yearn with tenderness and compassion: ‘ Ralh youth, (said he, speaking to him with all the harshness he was master of) what could inspire
you

‘ you with so much boldness, as to attack so great a prince, and to reduce him almost to death?’ The shepherd shewing an awful respect, and a confidence unknown to him before, replied, and said with a wonderful intrepidity, ‘ Great monarch, the danger which I saw the fair princess in, was the occasion of this rash action: I knew not your son, and much less in an attempt so violent, and so much below a prince.’ As he spoke he invigorated his discourse, by raising his voice and gesture, wherein his arm lay bare, and the arrow, wherewith he was marked appeared too visible, not to be perceived by the king; who cried out, ‘ O heavens! am I deceived? or have I found my son again, whom I had lost!’ ‘ No: great king (said the fairy Amazona, mounted in the air upon a stately horse) you are not deceived; behold thy son, whom I preserved in an eagle’s nest, where he was carried by the order of his barbarous brother, for the loss of whom he must be thy comfort.’ And as she made an end of these words, she flew at the guilty prince, and with her lance pierced his heart, which reduced him presently to ashes.

After this the fairy went to the terrass, and presented the prince, (no longer now a shepherd) with a suit of armour, saying to him, ‘ These I promised thee; and with these thou shalt be invulnerable, and the greatest warrior in the world.’ Hereupon there were heard in the air the soundings of trumpets, and all manner of warlike instruments, which were followed with a soft and melodious symphony to words in praise of the prince and princess. The fairy alighted from off her horse, placed herself by the king, and desired him to give order, for solemnizing the marriage; and then commanded a genius, that appeared at her call, to go and fetch the illustrious and royal shepherd and his family: which immediately went, and returned with them. What a satisfaction was this, after such long
long

long troubles? the palace was filled with cries of joy, and none was ever equal to that of these two kings and their children. The nuptials were celebrated with great magnificence; after which the kind fairy took her leave and disappeared. The king Sublimus returned to his own dominions. Carpillona lived with her dear spouse in all imaginable pleasure, and the old king overjoyed to see a son so worthy of his love, grew young again, with the satisfaction he enjoyed, and lengthened out his days some time longer.

THE
S T O R Y
OF THE
PIGEON AND DOVE.

THERE was formerly a king and queen, who lived in that strict union of love, that they were an example to all the families in their own kingdom, which was the kingdom of Deserts; where the subjects lived together in that harmony, that they were the surprise of their neighbours. The queen had had several children, but could rear up but one; which was a daughter of such incomparable beauty, that if any thing could comfort her so, the loss of her other children,

dren, it was the charmes that appeared in this. The king and queen educated her as their only hope.— But the felicity of this small family lasted not long : the king being one day a hunting upon a fiery starting horse, and some people being a shooting, the horse was so frightened at the fire and noise of a gun, that he ran away with the king and fell with him down a great precipice, where he died immediately. This dismal news reduced the queen to the utmost extremity; she was too sensible of grief to moderate or resist it, and thought of nothing but settling her affairs, that she might die in some quiet; and having a friend, who was called the Sovereign Fairy, because of her authority over all kingdoms, and her great power, she wrote a letter to her with a dying hand, desiring her to come, that she might expire in her arms, and to make haste if she would find her alive, because she had something of consequence to say to her.

Though the fairy had at that time matters of great concern upon her hands, she left them all unfinished, and mounted upon her fiery camel, that went swifter than the sun, came to the queen, who waited for her with the utmost impatience: first, she acquainted her with several things relating to the government of the kingdom, desiring her to accept of it, and withal to take care of the little princess Constantia. And then said,

- ‘ If any thing can make me easy, in leaving an orphan
- ‘ of so tender an age behind me, ’tis the hope you give
- ‘ me of the same marks of friendship towards her, as
- ‘ you have always shewn me; and that she will find
- ‘ in you a mother, that can make her happier and render her more perfect; and that you will make choice
- ‘ of a husband so amiable, that she may never love any other.’

Great queen (said the fairy) you desire all that can be wished for, and I will forget nothing to serve your daughter: but I have cast her nativity, and it seems fate is angry with nature for having exhausted all her treasures in her birth, and upon that

that account is resolved to make her suffer: and your majesty must know, that it sometimes pronounces some sentences that are not to be avoided.' 'How-ever (replied the queen) soften her misfortunes, and neglect nothing to prevent them; by attention we often may prevent great evils.' The sovereign fairy promised what she desired, and the queen having embraced her dear Constantia with all the tenderness of a loving mother, died in great tranquillity.

The fairy, who read with great ease whatever was foretold by the stars, saw plainly that the princess was threatened with the fatal love of a giant, whose dominions lay nigh to the kingdom of Deserts, therefore she thought the best way to avoid him, was to remove her charge to a part the farthest off from that giant, where they might be in no likelihood of his disturbing their repose. Whereupon, as soon as she had made choice of some ministers she durst confide in, to govern in her absence, and had enacted some laws as judiciously contrived for the benefit of the subject, as any that were made by the sages of Greece, she went one night into Constantia's chamber, and without waking her, took her in her arms, and carried her on her fiery camel into a fertile country, where she might-live free from ambition and trouble: it being a true representation of the valley of Tempe, where shepherds and shepherdesses lived in little huts of their own building. The fairy knowing, that if the princess lived to sixteen years of age, without seeing the giant, that she might return in triumph back to her own dominions, took all the care imaginable to conceal her from the eyes of all the world; and that she might not appear so beautiful, dressed her like a shepherdess, with her coifs, and hat hanging over her eyes: but that charming princess, like the sun breaking out from a dark cloud, could not be so disguised, but that some of her charms must appear; and notwithstanding all the fairy's care, Constantia was every where mentioned as the chief work

of the gods, and the ravishers of all hearts. Besides her beauty was not the only thing for which she was admired; the fairy had endowed her with a delicate voice, and the knowledge of all instruments, that she might be said even to exceed Apollo and the Muses. In this solitude she lived without the least repining, for the fairy had acquainted her with the reasons of bringing her up in so obscure a manner; which, as she had a great share of wit and good sense, she relished extraordinary well: in short, she was the admiration of the fairy for her docility and quickness of apprehension. But as her presence at that time was absolutely necessary in the kingdom of Deserts, since the ministers she had appointed acted not according to their instructions, she was obliged to leave Constantia, enjoining her not to stir out till she returned.

The princess had a favourite ram, that she had bred up from a lamb, and which she called Rufon, with which she used to divert herself, dressing it up in garlands of flowers, and bunches of ribbons. It knew her voice, and would do whatever she bid it, and used to skip about her chamber, and play with her for hours together; wherever she went, it would go along with her, would eat nought but what she gave, and would sooner perish with thirst than drink out of any thing but the palms of her hands; it would shut a door, beat time when the princess sung, and bleat by way of cadence; In short, Rufon was amiable, and was loved by Constantia, who was continually taking and making much of him. Notwithstanding all this, Rufon was more taken with an ewe of the flock, than his princess, and a poor sorry ewe was more in Rufon's eyes than the Queen of Love. Constantia often reproached him with his wantonness: 'Little libertine (said she) canst not you stay with me? thou art so dear to me, that for thee alone I neglect my whole flock, and yet thou wilt not forsake that scabby ewe to please me.'— After that, she tied him to the wall with a chain of flowers,

flowers, whereat he seemed very much vexed, and kept pulling and tearing 'till he broke it. ' Alas, (said Constantia in a passion) the fairy has often told me, ' that men are as wilful as thee, that they cannot endure the least confinement, and that they are the ' most refractory creatures under the heavens; and ' therefore since thou art like them, naughty Ruseon, ' go to thy nasty ewe, and if the wolf should catch ' thee, thou must take it for thy pains, since it will not ' be perhaps in my power to save thee.'

The amorous sheep, on whom Constantia's advice could not prevail, being one day with his dear ewe, nigh the little house where the princess was set working all alone, she heard him bleat out so loud and piteously, that she no longer disputed but some ill accident had befallen him; and being very much concerned for him, ran to the door, from whence she saw her poor Ruseon carried away by a wolf: And not thinking of the charge the fairy had given her, ran after, crying out, a wolf, a wolf; and still pursued him, sometimes throwing her crook, and sometimes stones at him, but all could not make him quit his prey, when alas! passing by a wood, there came out a terrible giant. The princess, at the sight of this colossus, lifted up her eyes to heaven to beg assistance, and almost wished the earth would open and swallow her, but all in vain; she deserved to be punished for not believing and observing what the sovereign fairy told her. The giant spread wide his arms to hinder her passing by; and tho' he was savage and furious, nevertheless he was sensible of her charms. ' What goddess art thou? ' (said he, in a voice as loud as thunder:) Think not ' to deceive me, for thou art not mortal; therefore ' tell me thy name, or whether thou be the wife or ' daughter of Jove. I have a long time sought after ' a goddess to marry her, and now happily met with ' one.' At these words the princess remained mute, and he finding that she returned no answer to his

gallantries, said, 'For a divinity thou hast the least wit I ever met with, therefore I shall put you in my bag.' And without any more ado, opened a great sack, and put her in. The first thing she perceived was the wolf and the ram, which the giant had taken as he was hunting. 'Alas! (said the princess to the sheep, kissing it) thou must die with me, my dear Ruse: but that is but a small comfort; would it not have been much better for us to have staid at home?' This melancholy reflection made her cry most bitterly: she sighed and sobbed, Ruse bleated, and the wolf howled, which awakened a dog, a cock, a parrot, and a cat, that were fast asleep, and they altogether made such a noise, that the giant tired therewith, thought once to kill them: But at last contented himself with only tying them up in the sack, and hanging them upon a tree while he went to fight a duel with another giant.

The princess never disputed but that she was a great way from home, though she had not been long in the sack, for the giant's moderate rate of walking was faster than the swiftest horse could gallop: however she took out her scissors, and ripped up the sack, and let out her Ruse, the cock, the cat, and parrot; and after them got out herself, leaving the wolf behind. The night was very dark, and the princess a stranger to the place where she was, and knew not which way to go, being in the midst of a large forest, and not a star appeared in the heavens that might afford her the least light, and she always in fear of the giant; notwithstanding all this, she went forwards, and had fell a thousand times, but that the animals she had set at liberty, out of gratitude, stayed with her, and were very serviceable to her in her journey. The cat's glaring eyes served for a flambeau; the dog as a centinel, to give notice by his barking; the cock by his crowing, to frighten the lions; and the parrot, by his talking, secured her against thieves, by making them believe there were twenty people: and the ram by going just before.

before, picked out her way, that she might not stumble. Constantia kept walking on at a venture, recommending herself to the protection of her good friend the fairy, though at the same time she reproached herself for not having followed her orders. Sometimes she feared she was forsaken, and wished that her good fortune would conduct her to the house where she had been brought up so privately; but as she was entirely ignorant of the way, she durst not flatter herself with so great an happiness. At day-break she found herself by the side of a river, that watered a most agreeable meadow, and looking about, saw neither dog, cat, cock, or parrot, but only Rufon that kept her company:

‘ Alas! (said she) where am I? I am a perfect stranger
‘ to this sweet abode; what will become of me? Who
‘ will take care of me? How much hast thou cost me,
‘ my dear favourite? (said she to Rufon) Had I not
‘ ran after thee, I had been still with the Sovereign
‘ Fairy, and had been in no fear of the giant, or any
‘ unlucky adventure.’ Rufon trembling, seemed to acknowledge his fault; and in short the princess fatigued and weary, left off chiding, and sat herself down on the bank where the shade of some trees secured her from the heat of the sun, invited her to lie down to take a short sleep, while Rufon, who served for her guard, walked round her. She had not been long in a sound sleep, before Rufon bleated so loud, that he awakened her, but then how great was her astonishment, to observe at twenty paces off a young man behind some bushes; the beauty of his shape and face, the nobleness of his air, and the magnificence of his dress, equally surprised the princess, that she started up all on a sudden, with a resolution to be gone: But what secret charm detained her, I know not. She looked upon the stranger with as much concern, as if he had been the giant; but her apprehensions proceeded from different causes: Their looks and actions discovered too well the sentiments they entertained of each other, and they perhaps might

have remained so some time before they had spoke, had not the prince heard the sounding of the horn, and the dogs approaching them. Perceiving she was surprised, at last he said, 'Fear nothing, fair shepherdess, you are safe here: would to heaven all that you see were so too.' 'Sir (said she) I am a poor orphan, whose only employ is being a shepherdess, therefore I implore your protection: procure me but a flock, none shall exceed me in care.' 'Happy must the sheep be, said he, that you lead! But in short, lovely shepherdess, if you desire it, I will speak to the queen my mother, and shall take a pleasure from this day to offer you my services.' 'Alas! Sir (replied Constantia) I ask pardon for the liberty I have taken; I should not have been so bold, had I known your rank.'

The prince heard her with the utmost astonishment, to find her wit and politeness answerable to the excellence of her beauty, all which was no ways agreeable to the plainness of her dress; and thereupon endeavoured to dissuade her from being a shepherdess. 'Consider (said he) you will be exposed in woods and fields, to many dangers, where you have no other company but your harmless sheep; besides, the delicacies I have observed in you will not admit of that solitude you seem to desire. Who can be so ignorant as to think, that when the fame of your charms is spread abroad, you can avoid thousands of importunate lovers? I myself, adorable shepherdess, will quit the court to follow you: and why may not others do the like?' 'Forbear, Sir, (said she) to flatter me with praises, of which I am no ways deserving; I was born in a cottage, and have always led a country life, and hope you will permit me to look after the queen's flock, if she vouchsafed me that charge, in all tranquillity: But yet I have one favor more to request, and that is, that I may be put under some more experienced shepherdess, whom I shall endeavour

‘endeavour never to displease.’ The prince could not return any answer to these words, because his attendants appeared on a hill at some small distance, but said to her in great haste, ‘I must leave you, charming fair; I cannot bear the thoughts that so many should partake of the happiness of seeing you: Go to the end of the meadow, there is a house where you will be entertained, if you tell them I sent you.’ Hereupon Constantia, who was loth to be exposed to so much company, ran to the place where Constantio (which was the prince’s name) directed her, followed all the while by that prince’s eyes, who fetched many tender sighs then remounting his horse, he made towards his company, and with them returned to court, without pursuing their sport any longer.

When he came to see the queen, he found her very much enraged against an old shepherdes, who had given up a very bad account of her lambs; whereupon she had ordered her never to see her more. Constantio, favoured with this opportunity, told her he had met with a young damsel that seemed careful, and who was very desirous to serve her. The queen approved of what her son had told her, bidding the prince give orders for her to be conducted to those pastures that belonged to the crown. He was overjoyed that she was dispensed with from coming to court; for the violence of his passion had created a jealousy of being rivalled, though there were none that could dispute with him either in rank or merit: but indeed he was not so apprehensive of the great lords; as of more inferior persons, believing she might have more inclination for a plain shepherd, then for a prince so nigh the throne. Hard it is to relate the many reflections with which this was followed, how he reproached his heart, that had never loved before, nor thought any person worthy of it, for submitting to a young damsel of an obscure birth; and since that he could not own his passion without a blush, he resolved to combat it, and persuaded

himself that absence was the only remedy, particularly in a new born love. He avoided the sight of his shepherdess as much as possible, and followed his diversions of hunting and other sports; and whenever he saw any sheep, turned his head away, as if they were so many vipers, insomuch that in a little time he was insensible of the wound he had received: When one day, it being the hottest of the dog-days, fatigued with severe hunting, and being alone by the river-side, he retired under some willows and osiers, that by the meeting of their branches formed a pleasant shade, which invited him to sleep: when all on a sudden he was awakened by a heavenly voice, and agreeably surpris'd to hear these words.

*Why, alas! have I then vow'd
To live all free from love,
Since it is the god's decree.
That he will me purjur'd prove.*

*How from such a killing wound
Shall I free each tender part
Since Constantio is become
Master of my easy heart.*

*I' other day I saw him walk
To this solitary glade,
Wearied with the pleassing toil,
Thut in vites men to it's shade.*

*Nothing so charming had I seen
To rob me of my rest;
'Twas then love drew his bow,
And aim'd it at my breast.*

*The dart pierc'd in too deep.
So large a wound it made;
My passion burns up to a flame,
No cure is to be had.*

His

His curiosity, at hearing his name mentioned, prevailed over the pleasure of listening to the fine singing, he rose up, and went to a little eminence, surrounded with trees, to look about, he was no sooner at the top, but he perceived the fair Constantia, at the foot thereof, sitting by the side of a brook, the precipitant fall whereof seemed, by the agreeable noise it made, to agree with her voice. Her faithful sheep lay on the grass by her side, while she frequently patted him with her crook, and he in acknowledgement, looked her in the face, kissed her hand; 'alas! (said the Prince to himself) how happy wouldst thou be, if thou knewest but the value of those caresses? this shepherdess is now more beautiful than the first time I saw her! O love! what is it thou requirest of me! Ought I to love, or am I rather able to resist? I have carefully avoided her, being too sensible of the danger of seeing her; witness, ye Gods! the impressions those first moments made on me. My reason I employed to my assistance; I flew from the lovely object: but, alas! have found it again: And too sure, the Constantia she spoke of, is some happy shepherd.'

While he was arguing with himself after this manner, the shepherdess arose to gather up her flock, to drive them to another part of the mead, where she had left her companions. The Prince, fearing to lose his opportunity of speaking to her, made all imaginable haste to get to her: 'Charming shepherdess (said he) give me leave to ask if the small service I did you, is any ways pleasing to you?' Constantia, at the sight of the Prince, blushed, and her complexion was animated with the most lively colours: 'Sir, (replied she) I should have taken care to have returned you my most humble acknowledgements, if they had been convenient from so poor a girl as me, to so great a Prince; but if I have been failing therein, heaven can witness I am not ungrateful, but pray the gods to crown your days with happiness.'

' if you are so much touched with my good intentions,
 ' as you say, it is easy for you to shew it.' ' Alas!
 ' Sir, (said she, somewhat confused) what can I do for
 ' you?' ' You may tell me, (added he) whom you
 ' meant by those words you sung?' As they are none
 ' of my making (answered she) it is not in my power
 ' to satisfy you therein.' While she was speaking,
 he perceived that she blushed, and was somewhat em-
 barrassed, and thereupon said, ' Why, Constantia, do
 ' you conceal your thoughts, since your countenance
 ' betrays too much the secrets of your heart? You are
 ' in love.' Here he left off to observe her with more
 attention. To which she replied, ' sir, whatever things
 ' may concern me, cannot be worth a great Prince's
 ' being informed off; besides, I am so much used to
 ' silence with my sheep, that I must beg your pardon;
 ' if I answer not your questions.' And then went away
 suddenly.

As jealousy oftentimes helps to renew the flames of
 love, the Prince's from that moment took such force
 as never to be extinguished; he discovered a thousand
 new charmes in her person, which he never had obser-
 ved before; her manner of leaving him, confirmed
 suspicion, of her being in love with some shepherd:
 A profound melancholy hung over his soul; he durst
 not follow her, though desirous of more discourse with
 her; but laid himself down on the same place she
 rose from, and after recollecting the words she had
 sung, writ them down in his pocket-book, and examined
 them with great attention. ' 'Tis but lately (said he
 ' to himself) that she has seen this Constantio, with
 ' whom she is so much enamoured; how came I to
 ' bear the same name, and not also to enjoy the same
 ' good fortune? Alas! how coldly she looked at me?
 ' She shewed more indifference than when first I
 ' saw her; her greatest care has been to find out a pre-
 ' text to get away from me.' With these tormenting
 thoughts he racked his afflicted soul, unable to compre-

hend that a simple shepherdess should not have the least inclination to a great Prince. When he returned to the palace, he sent for a young Lad, with whom he used to divert himself sometimes, who was both of birth and fashion, and one of the Prince's attendants; he ordered him to dress himself like a shepherd, to feed a flock of sheep in the queen's meadows, and to observe Constantia, without being in the least suspected by her. Mirtain (which was his name) too desirous to please his master to neglect any opportunity, promised to acquit himself the best he could, and prepared himself against the next morning; when he was admitted, by shewing an order from the Prince, and saying he was his shepherd. He was gallant, and found it no difficult matter to render himself pleasing to the shepherdesses; but for Constantia, he discovered in her an air of pride above what she seemed to be, which made him think the country life she led could not be agreeable to so much wit, beauty and merit: He followed her, but all in vain, and found her always alone at the bottom of the wood, singing an air which she seemed very much to delight in. He could meet with no shepherds that durst undertake to make any address, so difficult it appeared to please her; however, Mirtain attempted it, was always near, offered her some little services, but found by experience, that she would not enter into any engagement.

Every night he gave the Prince an account of the situation of affairs, all which contributed to his despair. 'Deceive not yourself, my Lord, (said he one day to him, this beautiful damsel is certainly in love: but then it is with one of her own country. If so (replied the Prince) why should she not return home?' 'How do we know (added Mirtain, but she may have some reasons that may oppose it?' 'Perhaps she may be enraged against her lover.'— 'Alas! (cried the Prince) the words I heard her sing were uttered with too much tenderness; however, learn

' her sentiments of me, speak both well and ill of me :
 ' By that means thou mayest come to know her
 ' thoughts.' Mirtain failed not to get an opportunity
 of discourse with Constantia, and among other things,
 said, ' Fair shepherdes, what is the matter with
 ' you? You seem melancholy, notwithstanding all
 ' those reasons you have to be otherwise.' ' Pray,
 ' (said she) what are those reasons? I am here a stran-
 ' ger, reduced to keep sheep, and hear no news from
 ' my friends: where is the agreeableness of all this?'
 ' But then (replied he) you are the most amiable per-
 ' son in the world; you have a great share of wit,
 ' a ravishing voice, and a beauty not to be equalled :
 ' Though I am mistress of all these (said she, fetching
 ' a deep sigh) of what advantage are they to me?'—
 ' What then (replied Mirtain) you are ambitious,
 ' you think none but kings and princes are happy?
 ' Be convinced of this mistake; I belong to the Prince
 ' Constantio, and notwithstanding the inequality of
 ' our stations, am sometimes nigh his person, and
 ' can observe and penetrate into the actions of his
 ' soul, and know full well he is not happy.' Alas!
 ' (said the Princess) what can trouble his repose;?
 ' A fatal passion (answered Mirtain.) He is in love
 ' (replied she with some concern;) alas! I pity him :
 ' But what do I say (continued she, blushing) he is
 ' too lovely, not to deserve a return.' ' He dares not
 ' flatter himself fair shepherdes (said Mirtain; but
 ' if you would give him ease as to that point, your
 ' words would have more effect upon him than any
 ' other person's.' ' It is no ways proper for me (said
 ' she) to concern myself with the affairs of so great a
 ' Prince; and those you speak to me of, are too par-
 ' ticular: Adieu, Mirtain (leaving him suddenly)
 ' if you would oblige me, speak no more of your Prince
 ' nor his amours.'

Thus she left Mirtain, though no ways insensible of
 the merit of his Prince; for from the first time she
 saw

saw him, she had never been able to blot him out of her thoughts: And without this secret charm which detained her against her own desire, it is certain she would have endeavoured to find out the Sovereign Fairy. Besides, it may be expected that that knowing person, who could not be ignorant of all that passed, should come to look after her; but that lay not in her power; after the giant had found the Princess, she was forced to submit to fortune for a certain time, insomuch that the Fairy was contented to come and see her in a sun-beam, against which Constantia could not look stedfastly enough to discern her.

Constantia perceived with rage that the Prince had neglected her, and that this second view was entirely owing to chance, that conducted him to the place where she sat singing; she was vexed with herself for the sentiments she entertained of him; and if it is possible to love and hate at the same time. I may say she hated because she loved too much. Rufon was the only witness of the tears she shed secretly: sometimes she would confess her grief to him, as if he was capable of understanding; and whenever he skipped or played among the other sheep, she would cry out, 'Take care Rufon, lest love inflame thee, which without a return, is the greatest of all misfortunes.'—These reflections were followed by a thousand reproaches she made herself, for the love she bore to a Prince that appeared so indifferent, whom she was striving to forget: when she found him retired to that agreeable shade, to think with more freedom on the shepherdess from whom he flew. There surprised with sleep he lay upon the grass, when she came and saw him: Her passion increased, and she could not forbear making these words true, which was the cause of the prince's disquiet. But then, what were her torments, when Mirtain told her, Constantio was in love? Whatever restraint she put upon herself, she could not help changing her countenance; at which Mirtain, whose

whose business it was to observe all her actions, was not a little overjoyed, and ran to acquaint his master. The prince, who was not at that time so much disposed to flatter himself as his confidant, fancied he saw nothing but indifference in all the proceedings of that shepherdes, and accused the happy and beloved Constantia. The next morning he went to find her out: She no sooner saw him, but she fled from him, as if he had been a lion or a tyger, thinking flight the only remedy that was left her: For since her conversation with Mirtain, she thought she ought not to neglect the recovering of her heart again, and that the only means to succeed therein, was to avoid him. But what became of Constantio, when his shepherdes left him so suddenly? 'You see, said he to Mirtain, (who stood by him) the happy effects of what you have done; Constantia hates me; I dare not follow her to know her sentiments.' Alas! Sir (replied Mirtain) you shew too much respect for a country girl: If you think fit, I will go and order her to come to you.— Ah! Mirtain (cried the prince) thou art a confident, not a lover; my thoughts are entirely bent upon pleasing that lovely Damsel; I have discovered a politeness in her, that I am sure those rough ways of yours must be disagreeable to, and chuse rather to endure my pains, than displease her.' As he made an end of these words, he went away seized with a melancholy deep enough to move the pity of an heart less interested than Constantia's. As soon as he was gone, she returned, to have the satisfaction of sitting on the same spot of ground he had stood on.— It was here (said she) that he stopped; it was from hence that he looked at me; but, alas! in all those places he has shewn but too much indifference for me, and comes only to enjoy the more freedom of his thoughts on his beloved mistress: But what reason have I to complain? How is it possible he should engage himself to a girl that he thinks so much beneath

'neath him?' Sometimes she was for informing him of her adventures; but the Sovereign Fairy had forbid her so absolutely never to speak of them, that her obedience prevailed, and she resolved to keep them secret.

Some days after the prince came again, and she avoided him as much as before; upon which he was very much grieved, and ordered Mirtain to go and load her with reproaches from him; which she pretended she did not understand, but at last consented to see his master. Which words were no sooner out of her mouth, but Mirtain ran to acquaint the prince, who longed with impatience for the approach of the next morning. It no sooner appeared, but he went to find his lovely shepherdess; she seemed, at the first sight of him, speechless and confused, and much more so when he declared his passion: And notwithstanding her desire of believing him, she was afraid of being deceived, thinking, that he looked upon her no otherwise than as she appeared to be, might only divert and please himself, by making a declaration no ways suitable to a poor shepherdess. Enraged at this thought, she became more proud, and received all the assurances of his passion with a coldness that confirmed all his suspicions. Upon which he said, 'I see you are engaged: Some happy swain has known how to charm you; but bear me witness, heaven! if I find him out, he shall feel the effects of all my rage.' 'Sir (replied she) I ask no favor for any one; and if you knew but the sentiments of my heart, you would find them different from what you think them to be.' At these words the prince conceived some hopes; but those were soon destroyed by the conversation they had afterwards; for she protested her indifference was not to be overcome; and that she was very sensible that she could never love.—These words again cast him into an inexpressible grief, which he constrained as much as possible, that she might not perceive it. In short, whether through the violence

violence he did himself, or the excess of his passion, which was become stronger, by the more difficulties that opposed it, he fell so dangerously ill, that the physicians, not knowing the cause, despaired of his recovery. Mirtain, who was by his master, ordered to attend on and follow Constantia, told her the dismal news, which she heard with a trouble and concern not to be conceived. He asked her if she knew no remedy for a fever, and violent pains of the head and heart; to which she replied she knew of one, consisting of some simples that she could gather, but that it depended most on the manner of the application. 'Will not you go to the palace (said he) to administer it?'— 'No, (said she blushing) I am afraid it should not succeed.' 'How (continued he) can you neglect any thing to do us service on this pressing occasion?' I always indeed thought you cruel and hard-hearted, but now find you a thousand times more so than I imagined.' These reproaches of Mirtain's created a pleasure in Constantia, who was overjoyed that he pressed her to see the prince; for the obtaining of which satisfaction alone, she boasted of a remedy to ease his pains.

Mirtain went and informed the prince of all that the shepherdes said to him, and with what ardour she wished for his health. 'Ah! Mirtain (said Constantia, you intend to flatter me; but I forgive you, and would willingly (durst I be deceived) think that beautiful maid has some friendship for me.— Go, and tell the queen, that one of her shepherdes has a wonderful secret to cure me; get her leave, and bring this charmer hither: Run, fly, for every moment seems an age.' The queen who had never seen this shepherdes, said, when Mirtain told her of Constantia, that she had no faith in what such ignorant persons pretended to know, and that it was idle talk.— 'Certainly, madam (said Mirtain) there is sometimes as much ease found in the use of some simples as from the learned prescriptions of the most eminent physicians ;

• physicians ; and the prince is very desirous of trying
 • what this young damsel proposes.' ' With all my
 • heart, (said the queen) but if she does not cure him,
 • I will use her so, as she shall never have the assurance
 • to pretend to administer her simples any more.'—
 Mirtain went and gave his master an account of the
 queen's ill humour. The prince cried out, that he was
 afraid Constantia should feel the effects thereof, and
 ordered him to go back to his mother, to desire her,
 from him, to let that fair maid stay with her sheep.—
 • What a recompence (continued he) is this for her
 • pains! The very thoughts of it redouble my disease.'
 Mirtain acquitted himself of his commission to the
 queen, but as she was naturally hasty, she flew into
 a passion at the fickleness of his resolution, 'I have
 • already sent for her, (said she) if she cures my son,
 • I shall give her a reward; if not, I know what I have
 • to do; Go, and endeavour to divert him, for his
 • melancholy grieves me.' Mirtain obeyed, but ac-
 quainted not his master with the reception he met
 with, lest his fears for the shepherdes might do him a
 prejudice. The pastures belonging to the crown
 being nigh the town, it was not long before she came;
 besides those who are guided by love, are seldom slow.
 The queen did not think fit to see her, contenting
 herself with bidding her take care what she did, and
 assuring her, if she did not cure the prince, she should
 be put into a sack and thrown into the river. At this
 menace the beautiful princess turned pale, and her
 blood ran chill in her veins, 'alas! (said she to her-
 • self) I deserve this punishment for the lye I have
 • told, when I boasted of my skill? and I fear my
 • desire of seeing Constantio, will not be a sufficient
 • reason for the gods to protect me.' Then hanging
 down her head the tears run trickling down her fair
 cheeks. Those that were by, admired her so much,
 that they took her to be more like an angel than a
 mortal, and said, fear nothing, lovely shepherdes,
your

your eyes carry in them life and death; one glance from them is able to recover our young prince: Go into his chamber, dry up your tears, and apply your remedy without fear.

This manner of speaking, together with her extreme desire to see the prince, inspired her with some confidence. She begged leave to go into the garden to gather what was necessary for the cure, where she took some myrtle, trefoil and other herbs and flowers dedicated to Cupid and his mother; the feathers of a dove, some drops of a pigeon's blood, and called upon all the deities and fairies for their aid; and then trembling more than a turtle when she sees a kite hovering over her head, bid them conduct her to the prince's chamber. When she came there, she found him in bed, his face pale as death, and his eyes languishing; but as soon as he saw her, some streams of colour flowed up into his cheeks, which she observed with great joy. 'Sir (said she) I have often offered up my prayers to heaven for the recovery of your health; and my zeal engaged me to tell one of your shepherds, that I knew of a remedy, which I would willingly make use of to ease you: but the queen has told me that if heaven should abandon me in this undertaking, she will put me to death. Judge, Sir, of my fears, and be persuaded that I am more interested in the preservation of your health, than my own life.' 'Fear nothing charming shepherdes (said he) the favourable vows you made for my life, will render it so dear to me, that all my endeavours shall be to preserve it. Alas! how can my days be more happy, when I remember what I heard you sing of Constantio? Those fatal words, and your rigour, have reduced me to the condition you see me in: but fair shepherdes, you bid me live, and I will live for you.' It was with difficulty that Constantia concealed the pleasure so obliging declaration created in her soul, and fearing lest some person might hear what

what the prince said to her, she asked him, if he would give her leave to put on a bandage and bracelets of the herbs she had gathered; at which he held out his arm in a tender manner, and she tied on one of the bracelets presently, having first performed some little Ceremonies to amuse the prince's court. The prince cried out a few moments after, that he was better; and the physicians being called in, were surpris'd at the excellence of a medicine, the effects of which were so quick: But when they saw the shepherdes that applied it, their amazement vanish'd; and they said one to another, that there was more virtue in one look from her, than in all their medicines together. The shepherdes was so little affected with the praises they bestowed on her, that those who knew her not, took that for stupidity which proceeded from a different cause; for she plac'd herself behind one of the bed curtains, hiding herself from every one but her sick patient, whose head and pulse she often stooped to feel; and in those little opportunities they said thousands of tender things to each other. 'I hope, sir (said she to him) the sack the queen provided for to drown me in, will be put to a better use, since your health, which is so precious to me, is in a fair way of being reltored.' 'It depends entirely upon you, lovely Constantia (replied he) a little share in your heart will compleat both my health and happiness.' He rose soon after and went to the queen's apartment, who, when she was told the prince was coming, would not believe it, but was very much surpris'd to meet him at her chamber door. 'What is it you, my dear child? (cried she) To whom am I oblig'd for this?' 'To your own bounty, madam, (replied he) in sending me the most able person in the world; whom I desire you to recompense according to the benefit I have received from her.' Never mind that (said the queen in a careless manner) she is a poor shepherdes who will think herself happy to keep my sheep; trouble

'trouble not yourself about that.' The king coming in just upon this, and being told of the good news of the prince's recovery, and his being with the queen; as he was making towards the apartment: Constantia was the first object that struck his eyes, her beauty, like the sun shining among the lesser lights, dazzled him so much, that he was sometime before he could ask those about him what she was, and how long goddesses had inhabited his palace: at last recovering himself, he went towards her and knowing her to be the enchantress that had cured his son, embraced her, and told her in a gallant manner, that if he should be ill, he would beg of her to cure him too, and then bid her follow him. The amazement of the queen, who had never seen her before, is not to be expressed; she gave a great shriek, and fell into a fit, looking all the time with an enraged eye on the shepherdes. Constantio and Constantia were both frightened; the king knew not what to attribute it to, and the whole court were in the utmost consternation: When at last the queen came to herself again, the king often asked what was the cause, but she dissembling her uneasiness, said it was only the vapours: At which the prince who knew better, was very much concerned. She bid the shepherdes, with some seeming sort of kindness, to stay, telling her that she designed her to look after the flowers in her parterre; which employ the princess was very much pleased with, to think she might have an opportunity of seeing Constantio every day.

Some time after, the king obliged the queen to go with him into his closet, where he asked her tenderly what vexed her. 'Alas! (cried she) I dreamed
 ' that my son was married to a young shepherdes;
 ' and though I never saw this young girl in my life
 ' before, yet I have so strong an idea of her person
 ' in my dream, that I knew her again as soon as I fixed my
 ' eyes upon her, and shall be very much deceived if
 ' this sorry country girl does not give me great cause

' to be afflicted.' You give too much way (said the king) to such fancies: I would advise you not to act upon such principles: Send this shepherdes back to her flock, and do not grieve yourself with such a ridiculous conceit.'

This advise of the king's was no ways acceptable to the queen, who, instead of following it, applied herself to penetrate into her son's sentiments of Constantia.—The prince took all opportunities that offered, to see her; and as it was her business to look after the flowers, he fancied that every time she touched them they appeared more beautiful: Rufon was still her companion: To him though he could not answer her, she would often be talking of the prince; and whenever he approached towards her she was so embarrassed, that her eyes plainly discovered the secrets of her soul; at which the overjoyed prince would say all the tender things a violent passion could inspire. The queen, on the credit of her dream, and much more on the account of Constantia's incomparable beauty, could not sleep in quiet, but rose before day, and hid herself behind the palisadoes, and at the bottom of a grotto, to hear her son's discourse with that fair maid; but as they were both so wise as to talk low, she could gather nothing to support her suspicions, which made her the more uneasy. She looked on the prince with the utmost disdain, and was in continual fear, night and day, lest that shepherdes should ascend the throne.

Constantio had as strict a guard upon himself as possible; but nevertheless every body almost perceived his love of Constantia; for whenever he praised her, through his wonted custom of admiring her, or found fault with her, he did both like an interested person: And for Constantia, she also could not forbear speaking of the prince to her companions; and as she often sung those words she made for him, the queen who heard her, was no less surprised at her captivating voice, than at the subject of her poetry. ' What have

‘ I done, just heavens (said she) to be punished in the
 ‘ most sensible manner? Alas! I designed my son
 ‘ for my niece, and to my mortal grief, see him en-
 ‘ gaged to a wretch, who may, perhaps, make him
 ‘ guilty of disobedience.’

While she was afflicting herself after this manner, and ruminating upon a thousand furious projects to punish Constantia, for being so beautiful and charming. Love made a farther progress in the hearts of the two young lovers, Constantia convinced of the sincerity of the prince, could no longer conceal her birth and sentiments from him. A confession so tender, and so particular a confidence, ravished him so much with joy, that if they had been in any other place besides the queen’s garden, he would have cast himself at her feet to thank her. His passion was no longer to be resisted; he loved Constantia when a shepherdess, and we may easily believe adored her when he knew her rank: And if a princess wandering through the world, sometimes as a shepherdess, and sometimes a gardener, might seem extraordinary, at that time those things were very common; and the princess’s air and manner of address were convincing proofs of the sincerity of her words.

Constantio, moved by love and esteem, swore an eternal fidelity to the princess, as she did also to him, promising to marry as soon as they should obtain the consent of those whom duty required them to demand it of. The queen perceived the strength of his growing passion, and was more sensible of it, when one day her confidant, who desired nothing more than to find something to gain her favor by, came to tell her, that Constantia sent Rufon every morning into the prince’s apartment, and that that sheep carried two baskets full of flowers, and that Mirtain led him. The queen, at this news lost all patience, and as she knew which way poor Rufon was to pass, waited for him; and notwithstanding Mirtain’s prayers and entreaties, carried

carried him into her chamber: Where she tore the baskets and flowers in pieces, and found in a large lily a piece of paper curiously wrapped up by Constantia, wherein she reproaches the prince with the dangers he exposed himself to in hunting. The lines were thus:

*In the midst of all my joy,
Chilling fears croud on apace,
Anxious cares my breast invade,
While you pursue the chace.*

*Tell me, ye powers, wherein consist
Those charms that thus engage;
Charms that can my prince in vite
And tempt his godlike rage.*

*Turn! O turn! your conquering arm,
Against more yielding hearts;
Wolves and bears fly from your spear,
The fair embrace your darts.*

While the queen was venting her rage against the shepherdes, Mirtain went to give his master an account of what had happened. The prince uneasy thereat, ran into his mother's chamber; who at that time was going to the king's, to tell him. 'Behold, sir (said she) the noble inclinations of your son; he is in love with the shepherdes that pretended to cure him. Alas! (continued she) she knew how too well; 'twas love instructed her: She has restored him to health, to make him more miserable: and if we do not prevent the misfortune with which we are threatened, my dream will prove but too true.' You are naturally too severe (said the king) and would have your son think of no other person, but the princess you design to marry him to; you must indulge his years.—I cannot bear (cried the queen) your taking his part, you can never find fault with him; all that I ask

of

‘ of you is, to consent that I send him from court for
‘ some time: absence may have more effect than all
‘ my arguments.’ The king, was a man that loved
a quiet life, agreed to what his queen desired; and she
returned back to her own apartment, where she found
the Prince waiting for her with the utmost impatience.
‘ Child (said she to him, before he could speak to her)
‘ the king has been shewing me a letter from the king
‘ my brother, wherein he begs of him to send you to
‘ his court, that you may contract a friendship with
‘ the princess his daughter, whom we have a design
‘ you shall marry; it being proper you shall judge
‘ of each other’s merit, and engage your affections.’—
‘ Madam (replied the prince) I ask nothing so parti-
‘ cular in my favor; neither is it customary for prin-
‘ ces to go on such occasions, and consult their hearts
‘ before reasons of state: My obedience shall be the
‘ same whether the person be beautiful or deformed,
‘ witty or otherwise.’ ‘ I understand you, reprobate,
‘ (said she in a passion) you love a base shepherdess,
‘ and are afraid of leaving her; but you shall, or see
‘ her die before your face: But if you are ready to
‘ go, and will endeavour to forget her, I’ll keep her
‘ here, and love her as much as now I hate her.’ The
‘ prince who turned as pale as death, reasoned with
himself what to do in this urgency, he knew his mo-
ther to be a most cruel and revengeful princess, and
feared lest his opposition might exasperate her so much,
that his dear mistress would feel the effects of her re-
sentment. In short, being closely pressed, he consented
at last, like one who consents to drink a glass of poison;
and no sooner had given his word, but he left his mo-
ther, and returned to his own apartment, with a heart
so oppressed, that he thought he should die. He told
the faithful Mirtain his affliction; and impatient to
let his Constantia know the cause of it, went to the
grotto, where she used generally to retire from the heat
of the sun, to comb her delicate locks, and adjust herself.

The

There he found her sitting on the grass by a brook-side, which fell from the height of a rock, with her feet in the water, the agreeable murmurs of which, together with the fatigue of her work, having invited her insensibly to taste the sweets of a gentle sleep.—Her eyes, though closed, preserved a thousand beauties; her long black eye lashes set off the whiteness of her skin; the loves and graces seemed to surround her, and modesty and sweetness to augment her charms. The amorous prince remembered, that the first time he saw her she was asleep; but since then, his sentiments of her were become so tender, that he would willingly have surrendered up half his life, to enjoy the other half with her; he gazed upon her some time, with a pleasure that suspended his grief; then running over all her beauties, discovered her foot as white as snow, which he could not forbear admiring, and approaching nearer, fell on his knees, and took her by the hand: Upon which she waked, seeming vexed that he should see her bare foot, and hid it with a blush upon her cheeks, surpassing the rose opening to the morning sun. But, alas! of what continuance was it? She observed a deep melancholy in the prince's face, and said to him, frightened; 'What is the matter with you, Sir, I know by your eyes you are troubled?' 'Ah! who can be otherwise, my dear princess? (said he, shedding some tears.) We must part: I must go and leave you exposed to my mother's rage; she knows the love I bear to you: The billet you sent me fell into her hands, and, she, insensible of my grief, is sending me to the king her brother.' 'What's this you tell me, prince! (cried she) you are going to leave me, as the means necessary to preserve my life! How could you imagine such means? Let me die rather before your eyes, than live without you.'

So tender a discourse could not fail of being accompanied and interrupted by sighs and tears: The two young lovers never knew nor foresaw the cruelties of

absence before ; they swore a thousand times never to change, and the prince promised a quick return, assuring her, that he would affront both his uncle and his daughter, so as to make them lay aside all thoughts of an alliance. ' I will strive (said he) to displease the princefs, and I am fure I fhall fucceed.' ' Then you must not fhew yourfelf (said Constantia) for if you do, you will please in fpite of yourfelf.' — Then they cried again bitterly, looking at each other with a piercing grief, and making fuch reciprocal promifes, that if they had any comfort, it was in the affurance of their love and fidelity. In this melting conversation the time ran away fo faft, that it was dark night before they thought of parting ; when the queen having a mind to fettle the prince's equipage with him, fent to Mirtain to acquaint his mafter with it, whom he found at his miftrefs's feet, holding one of her hands between his. As foon as they faw him, they were both fo ftruck, that they could not fpeak : However he delivered the queen's meffage to the prince ; who durft not difobey her commands, but took his leave of the princefs. The queen, when fhe faw him, found him fo melancholy, and fo much altered, that, gueffing at the caufe of it, fhe would not fpeak. Nevertheless, every thing was prepared with the fame diligence, while he was altogether taken up with his paffion. He made Mirtain ftay at Court, to fend him news of the princefs, with whom he left a great many rich jewels, to ferve in cafe of neceffity. The defpair of our lovers is not to be expreffed, when the prince went : And if any thing mitigated it, it was the hopes of feeing each other foon again. 'Twas then Constantia was moft fenfible of the greatnefs of her misfortune, of being the daughter of a rich and powerful king, and in the hands of a cruel queen, who had fent away her fon for fear of her, who was no ways his inferior.

The queen, now overjoyed that her fon was gone, applied herfelf to the intercepting all his letters ; fucceeded

ceeded therein, and knew Mirtain to be his confidant, whom, thereupon, she ordered under a false pretext to be arrested, and sent to a dismal prison. The prince, when he heard of it, was very much enraged, and writ letters to the king and queen to demand his favourite's liberty : but all his influences had no effect. But this was not all, for one morning, when the princess rose to gather some flowers, according to custom, for the queen's toilet, she saw the faithful Rufon, who went before her, come trembling to her, and advancing forwards to see what was the cause, heard a hissing of snakes, and was surrounded by toads, vipers, scorpions, aspicks and adders, which made many vain leaps at her, and alw ays fell down again upon the same spot of ground. Notwithstanding the fright she was in, she could not but take notice of this prodigy, and could attribute it to nothing but a ring given by her lover. Which way soever she turned, those venomous animals fled before her ; the alleys and all the flower beds were full of them, insomuch, that the beautiful Constantia knew not what would become of her ; and saw the queen at her window laughing, and from thence judged, it was in vain to flatter herself with any expectation of assistance from her orders. ' I know I must die (said she courageously) these monsters came not here of themselves, but have been brought by the queen's command, who is come herself to be a spectator of the deplorable end of my life, which has hitherto been so unhappy, that I have no reason to be fond of it, but if I do in some measure regret the loss of it, the just gods can witness on what account it is.' After this she advanced boldly forwards ; the snakes, &c. made off from her as fast as she made towards them ; and so she got out of the garden : At which she was as much amazed as the queen, who had been a long time providing these dangerous creatures to destroy her, thinking that her son would believe her death accidental, and she by this means should skreen herself from his reproaches : But this project failing, she had recourse to this other.

There lived at the farther side of a large forest, a fairy, whose abode was rendered inaccessible by elephants that devoured all travellers ; with this fairy the queen had agreed, that if any person should come from her unhurt, to send them back again with somewhat that would be sure to kill them. Her other plot mis-carrying, she sent for Constantia, and ordered her to go thither with a message she gave her. The princess, who knew the queen would be absolutely obeyed, prepared to set out for the dangerous journey she was to undertake : and reflecting on the dangers she had heard her companions tell of, she remembered that an old shepherdes had said that those elephants were very gentle when they saw either a sheep or a lamb ; and that when the fairy sent the burning girdle to the queen, for fear lest the queen should make her put it on, she had fastened it upon several trees which it fired, till it had lost all it's force : but little thought when she heard this story, that it might one day be serviceable to her. In short, she took Rufon, and set forwards on her journey ; and the queen, who was mighty well pleased thereat, could not forbear telling the king that they should never see the hated object of their son's affections any more, since she had sent her to the forest, whence she could never return. Upon which the king told her she was too revengeful, and that he could not but have some regret for the death of so beautiful a creature.

In the mean time Constantia arrived at the forest, and was presently surrounded by the elephants ; but those dreadful creatures no sooner saw Rufon, but they caressed him with their trunks as gently as the finest lady could with her fair hand : And then the princess, fearing lest they should separate their interests, took Rufon in her arms, and which way soever she turned, always presented him, and by that means reached the fairy's abode, the rudeness and desolation of which frightened her, as much as the old woman herself, who

in all respects answered her dwelling place. 'What is it you want, fair Maid? (said she.) To which the princess replied, that the queen presented her duty and service to her, and desired her to send the girdle of friendship.' 'She shall not be denied (said the old fairy) I know it is for you.' — And then putting her hand into a long pocket she wore by her side, pulled out a girdle of blue velvet, and gave it her, saying, 'This girdle will make you most exquisitely beautiful, provided you wear it as soon as you are in the forest.' Constantia made a courtesy, and thanked her; and then took up Rufon, who was as useful as before: However, she did not forget to put the girdle of friendship about a tree, which immediately was all in flames; and after that, she girt it about several, till all its virtue was spent; and at last came back to court very much tired. The queen was so surprised when she saw her, that she could not speak for a long time, and when she recovered herself, told her that she was a false saucy baggage, for that she had not been with the fairy. Constantia affirmed she had, and that she had brought the girdle of friendship; upon which the queen asked her if she had put it on: and the other replied it was too rich for a poor shepherdess to wear. 'No, no, (said the queen) I give it you for your pains, be sure to gird it about your waist; but tell me what you met with in your travels.' Hereupon Constantia told her how she had met with elephants so sensible and tame, that she could not but admire them; that the forest seemed like their kingdom, wherein some paid great respect to others; and the queen, though vexed at this relation, yet disguised her rage, hoping the girl would complete her desires.

Constantia retired to her chamber, where she bewailed the absence of her dear prince, to whom she durst not write, because the queen had spies abroad that intercepted all letters and messengers. 'Alas!

• Constantio (said she) you will shortly hear dismal
• news of me; you should not have gone, and left me
• exposed to your mother's violences; you would have
• defended me; or received my last sighs; whereas
• I am now in the power of her tyranny, and have
• none to comfort me.' The next morning she went
with the girdle about her waist, to work in the garden
as usual; where she found the same venomous crea-
tures again, which her ring secured her from. And
when the queen perceived her gathering her flowers,
and well, she burst out into an extravagancy of pas-
sion. • What power (cried she) interposes in this
• shepherdess's behalf? By her beauty she has bewitched
• my son, and by her simples restored him his health,
• and can walk unhurt in the midst of adders and
• aspicks. The elephants were tame and gentle at
• the sight of her; and the girdle that should burn
• and consume her, serves only to adorn her; There-
• fore I must use some other means.' Thereupon she
sent the captain of her guards, in whom she could
confide, to the port, to see if there were any vessels
ready to sail for a long voyage; and he returned
and told her there was one which was designed to sail
the beginning of the night. This news was very
agreeable to the queen, who immediately sent for the
master to come and buy a beautiful slave; who, when
he came to the palace, and saw Constantia (who knew
nothing of what was in agitation) in the garden, was
so surpris'd with the charms of this incomparable
maid, that the queen, who was very covetous, took the
advantage of it and sold her at a considerable price.
It happened that night that Constantia retired very early
to her chamber, to amuse and indulge her thoughts on
Constantio, and to answer a letter of his which she had
by some stratagem received, the which she was rea-
ding when the queen entered the room, followed by
the captain of the guards and two mutes, who stopped
her mouth with a handkerchief, and carried her away.
Rufon

Rufon would have followed his dear mistress, but the queen caught hold of him, and prevented him; fearing lest his bleating might discover what she had a mind should be done privately. And thus Constantia, having none to assist her, was transported aboard the vessel, which hoisted sail immediately after.

Here we must leave her to the mercy of the sea, her new master, and to cruel fortune: for the Sovereign Fairy could not prevail with fate in her favor: And all she could do, was to follow her unseen in a dark cloud. In the mean time the prince Constantio, wholly taken up with his passion, paid no regard to the princess that was designed him; and though he was naturally the most polite prince in the world, was guilty of several rude and unmannerly actions, which she often complained of to her father, who reproved his nephew for it, and so the match went rather off than came on. At this very nick of time the queen thought fit to write to the prince, to let him know that Constantia was at the point of death; which news created so much grief in the prince, that without observing any ceremonies of taking his leave, he set out with all speed to come and see her, but notwithstanding all his haste came too late: For the queen foreseeing that he would return as soon as he received her letter, had for several days before caused a report to be given out that Constantia was very ill; and some time after another, that she was dead; and to confirm it, buried a figure of wax: And to convince the prince the more of the truth of it, released Mirtain out of prison to assist at the funeral of this charming maid, who was regretted by all the court, and for the loss of whom the queen, on her son's account, seemed to be under some concern.

The prince arrived soon after in all the fears and uneasiness imaginable; and when he entered first the city, impatient to know how his dear Constantia did, happening to ask some people who knew him not, and

being told she was dead, he fell from his horse senseless and speechless; and being known by the crowd which gathered about him to be the prince, he was carried for dead to the palace. The king was sensibly touched with the miserable condition of his son; but the queen was prepared before hand, believed that time and the loss of his most tender hopes might cure him: But he who was too deeply affected to admit of any comfort. His grief, instead of diminishing, increased every moment, and he kept his room several days, without seeing or hardly speaking to any one; when one day, oppressed with his sorrow, he went into the queen's apartment with tears in his eyes, his face as meagre and as pale as death, and told her she had been the cause of his beloved Constantia's death, and that she would shortly be punished for the same, since he was resolved to die also, and would go to the place where she was buried. The queen, unable to dissuade him from it, resolved to go with him herself to a wood planted with cypress, where she had raised a tomb over her. When the prince came there, he said all the tender and compassionate things any man could invent, which made the queen, notwithstanding her natural hardness of heart, melt into tears; Mirtain took on as much as his master, and all that heard him shared in his affliction. At last, all on a sudden, enraged with the disappointment of his passion, he drew his sword, and approaching the marble monument, had killed himself, if the queen, and Mirtain had not held his arm. 'No, (cried he, nothing shall prevent my dying, and being with my dear princess.—' The name of princess surprised the queen, and had made her fancy he raved, had he not spoke rationally in other things. She asked him why he called Constantia a princess? to which he answered, because she was one, and sovereign of the kingdom of Deserts.—' Wellchild (said the queen) since Constantia is of birth suitable to yours, comfort yourself, she is not dead;

‘ dead; for now I must own to you, to mitigate your grief, I have sold her to a merchant for a slave.’—
‘ Ah! (cried the prince) what you tell me is only to suspend my design of dying; but my resolution is fixed, nothing shall hinder it.’ ‘ Then (said the queen) your own eyes must convince you of the truth of my words.’ And thereupon she ordered the figure of wax to be dug up. The prince, as soon as he saw it, believed it to be the body of the lovely princess, and fainted away, they endeavoured to bring him to himself again, but all in vain: The queen assured him she was not dead; but after the trick she had played him, he could not believe her, till Mirtain, whom he knew loved him, and who was not capable of telling him a lye, confirmed it.

From that moment the prince found some ease, because of all misfortunes death is the most terrible; and he might yet flatter himself with the hopes of seeing her again: But then he knew not where to seek her, nor who the merchant was, who never made the least mention whither he was bound. All these were great difficulties, but what are those true love will not surmount? The prince chose perishing, in pursuing the ravishers, a thousand times before living without her, and reproached the queen as often for her cruelty; telling her she might repent of what she had done, since he was resolved to go, and never come back again. The afflicted mother cast her arms about her son’s neck, wet his face with her tears, and conjured him, by the regard he had to his father’s and mother’s years, and the love and friendship he bore them, not to leave them; telling him that if he deprived them of the happiness of seeing him, it would be the cause of their deaths; that he was their only hope; and that when he was gone, their neighbours and enemies would seize upon the kingdom. All which the prince listened to with a coldness and respect, having the ill usage she had given Constantia always in his thoughts, and

without her he despised all the crowns in the world ; infomuch that he persisted, with a surprizing firmness, in the resolution of going the next day. The king endeavoured to persuade him to stay, but all in vain, for nothing could prevail with him ; the night he spent in leaving orders with Mirtain, giving him the charge of the faithful Rufon, and a great many rich jewels, telling him, that he should hear from him, provided he was secret, being willing to create the queen as much uneasiness as possible.

Before day, the impatient Constantia took horse, yielding himself up entirely to fortune, desiring her only to be so favourable as to direct him where he might find his dear mistress again. Whither to go he knew not ; but as she was carried on board a vessel, he thought it would be the best way to find her to embark on board one too : To this end he made towards the most noted port, and being there unaccompanied and unknown, informed himself of the most distant parts, and of all the coasts, ports and havens they could put in at, and then went on board a vessel, in hopes that a passion so violent and pure and his, would not always be unsuccessful.

Whenever they came nigh any land, he always put out a sloop and rowed along by the shore, calling upon Constantia, venting his sighs and complaints to the pitiless winds to convey them to the shore ; and then returned back to the ship overwhelmed with grief, and his eyes bathed in tears. One night, that they came to an anchor behind a large rock, he went on the shore as usual, but as they knew not the country, and the night was very dark, those that were along with him would not venture any further, for fear of danger. The prince, who valued not his life to find out the object of his wishes, kept going forwards, often falling and getting up again, till at last he discovered a great light, that seemed to come from some large fire ; and approaching nearer towards it, heard a great noise of hammers,

hammers, that gave terrible strokes: Far from being afraid, he made all possible haste forwards, till he came to a great open forge, in the furnace of which was so great a fire, that it looked as bright as the sun; here thirty cyclops were at work, making arms. Constantio went up to them, and said, ' If you are capable of entertaining any pity in the midst of fire and steel, tell me if you have seen the beautiful Constantia land here, and I will give you whatever you shall demand.' He had no sooner said this, but the noise that ceased at his first arrival, was renewed with much more violence: ' Alas! (said he) the barbarous wretches are no ways touched with my grief; what can I expect from them?' And just as he was about to leave them, he heard a soft symphony that ravished his senses; and looking towards the furnace, saw the most beautiful child, fancy could ever represent, brighter than the fire he came out of: When he considered his charms, the bandage over his eyes, his bow and quiver by his side, he no longer doubted but that it was Cupid; who cried out to him, ' Stay, Constantio, you burn with too pure a flame for me to refuse my assistance: I am called virtuous love; it was I wounded you with Constantia, and defended her against the giant that persecuted her. The Sovereign Fairy is my intimate friend: we have engaged to protect her; but I must make a trial of your passion, before I discover where she is.' ' Command love, command what you think fit, (cried the prince) I will not disobey thee.' ' Then throw yourself into this fire, (replied the child) but remember, if you love not faithfully, you are lost.' ' I have no reason to fear that,' said Constantia; and immediately threw himself into the furnace, where he lost all sense presently; he slept thirty hours, and when he awaked, found himself changed into a most beautiful pigeon, and instead of being in a terrible furnace, on a nest of roses, jessamines, and honey suckles. Never was any surprise greater than his, to see his rough feet,

his skin stuck full of feathers of various colours, and his eyes as he beheld them in a brook, as red as fire; he attempted several times to utter his complaints, but found he had lost the use of his speech, though he had recovered his senses. He looked upon this metamorphosis as the compleatest of all misfortunes: 'Ah! perfidious love, (thought he to himself) is this the recompence thou givest the most perfect of lovers? The false, the fickle, and forsworn are favoured by thee, while thou tormentest the true and faithful. What can I promise myself from so extraordinary a figure as mine, a poor pigeon? Could I speak, I would fly high and low, and search after my mistress, through all different climates, and inform myself of every one I met: but I am debarred the liberty of pronouncing her name, and the only remedy left me, is to throw myself off some precipice, and willingly embrace my death.'

Possessed with this fatal resolution, he flew to the top of a high mountain, and from thence cast himself down; but forgot, having not been long a pigeon, that his wings and feathers would keep him up: Therefore he resolved to unplume himself, and accordingly put his design in execution. As soon as he had quite stripped himself, he walked up to the top of a high rock, to attempt his destruction once more, where he was surprised by two young damsels, that came suddenly upon him; who, as soon as they saw him, said one to another, 'Where has this poor pigeon been? He has escaped the claws of some bird of prey, or some weasel.' 'It is no matter where he has been, (said the younger) but I know where he shall go; he shall go and bear five others, which I have at home, company, with which I intend to make a pye for the Sovereign Fairy.' The prince pigeon hearing her speak thus, instead of going from her, made towards her, in hopes of being speedily killed by her: But that proved his safety; for the young maids found him so tame and familiar, that

that they resolved to bring him up, and keep him alive; to which end the elder put him into her work basket she had in her hand, and so they pursued their walk.

Some days after, one of these damsels said to the other,
‘Methinks our mistress has a great deal of business upon
‘her hands since she is never from off her fiery camel,
‘but goes night and day from one pole to the other.’
‘If you can be discreet, (replied the other) I’ll tell you
‘a secret she hath entrusted me with; the princess Constantia, of whom she is so very fond, is persecuted by
‘a giant that would marry her, and has put her in a tower; and she is doing some surprising things to prevent this marriage.’ The prince listened to this conversation, and thought till then nothing could add to his troubles; but found, to his grief, he was much deceived; for we may judge by his passion, and by the unhappy circumstances he lay under, of being a pigeon, at a time when the princess stood in most need of his assistance, that his anguish of soul was great; his imagination, always ready to torment him, represented to him, that Constantia was secured in a dismal tower, and there exposed to the importunities and violences of a barbarous giant; and was always in apprehension, lest she, through fears, might consent to marry him; and then again, lest by refusing should hazard her life, through the rage of an unsuccessful lover. One day the young maid, that carried him in her basket, having been abroad, and returning back with her companion to their mistress at the fairy’s palace, found her walking in a shady walk of the garden, went and cast herself at her feet, and told her, that she had found a pigeon that was so tame and familiar, that her companion and she designed to keep it in their chamber; that if she liked it, it was at her service, it being very diverting. The fairy took the basket, opened it, and seeing the pigeon at the bottom, and knowing who it was (for that metamorphosis was owing to her) fell into a serious and deep reflection, moralizing on the vicissitudes and changes
of

of this life, and above all on those of Constantio's. She caressed the pigeon; and he, for his part, neglected no little artifice to gain her attention, that she might give him some comfort in this melancholy adventure. The fairy carried him into her closet, and there said to him. ' Prince, the miserable condition you are at this present in, makes me, that I cannot forbear owning and loving you for my beloved Constantia's sake, who, I can assure you is no less indifferent than yourself: Blame no body but me for this metamorphosis: I did it to try your passion, which is both pure and lasting, and will tend to your own honour.' The pigeon bowed his head three times in acknowledgement, and listened attentively to what the fairy told him.

' The queen, your mother (said she) had no sooner received the money for the princess, but she sent her abroad with all imaginable violence; and the ship set sail for the Indies, where they were sure to make a considerable advantage of the precious jewels they carried with them. Her tears and entreaties worked not the least effect upon them; she said, but all to no purpose, that the prince Constantio would purchase her of them again, if all he had in the world would do it. The more she urged all these arguments, the more haste they made to get off, for fear lest the prince, hearing of what was done, might come and snatch away their prey from them. In short, after having been some months at sea, a great storm arose; and the princess, oppressed with grief, and fatigued with the sea, was at the point of death; when they, to preserve her, put into the first port they could make: But as they were disembarking, a great giant, followed by several others, came down upon them, and would see what they had in their vessel; where the first object he fixed his eyes on, was the young princess; and knowing her again as well as she knew him, cried out, Ah! little runaway, the just and merciful gods have put thee in my power again: Do

‘ Do not you remember how I found you, and you cut
‘ the sack? but I shall be very much mistaken, if you
‘ serve me so any more; and without any more
‘ words, took her away in his arms from the whole
‘ ship’s crew, and carried her to his great tower, which
‘ is situated upon a high mountain, and built by en-
‘ chanters, who neglected nothing to make it fine and
‘ curious. Doors there are none, and no entering it,
‘ but by the windows, which are very high; the walls are
‘ built with diamonds, which make it look as bright as
‘ the sun at noon day. In short, it is as noble as art and
‘ nature can make it. When the giant had the charm-
‘ ing Constantia in his possession, he told her he would
‘ marry her, and make her the happiest woman in the
‘ world; that she should be mistress of all his treasures;
‘ that he would love her, and doubted not but she was
‘ overjoyed that her good fortune brought her to him.
‘ She, by her tears and complaints, has let him know
‘ the excess of her despair; but, as I manage privately
‘ against fate, which hath sworn the ruin of Constantia,
‘ I have inspired the giant with such sentiments of
‘ mildness as he never was master of before: Insomuch,
‘ that instead of being enraged against the princess, he
‘ has told her he will give her a year’s time to consider
‘ on it; and if she does not then come to a resolution,
‘ he will marry her against her will, and then kill her.
‘ After this dismal declaration, he brought several
‘ young damsels to bear her company, and divert her,
‘ and set a guard of giants round the tower, to hinder
‘ any person from coming to her. In short, the poor
‘ princess seeing no likelihood of any succours, and the
‘ year being expired all but one day, designs to throw
‘ herself from off the top of the tower. This, prince,
‘ is what she is reduced to, and the only remedy I
‘ know of, is for you to fly to her with a little ring,
‘ which, as soon as she shall put it on her finger, will
‘ change her into a dove, and so you may save your-
‘ selves together.’ The pigeon was in the utmost im-
patience

patience to be gone, but wanted the ring; he pulled the fairy by the apron and handkerchief, to make her understand what he meant: which she knowing full well, said, 'Fly, charming pigeon, (giving him the ring) take care you lose it not, and it will guide you to Constantia.' But as the prince pigeon, as I said before, had no feathers, the fairy rubbed him with a wonderful essence, that made the most beautiful feathers grow immediately, insomuch that he excelled Venus's doves. Overjoyed to see himself re-plumed again, and taking the ring, he arrived at the break of day at the tower: And as there was a spacious garden on the top of the tower, full of orange trees, loaded with fruit, the prince, had he not more important affairs on his hands, could have spent some time in admiring it.

He perched upon an orange tree with the ring in his mouth, and in extreme anguish of mind; when the princess came into the garden in a long white robe, and her face covered with a black veil embroidered with gold, that hung all upon her shoulders, the amorous pigeon could not have been certain that it was her, but by the nobleness of her shape, and her majestic air, which too plainly discovered who she was. But when she came and set under the orange tree, and lifted up her veil, he remained some time dazzled. 'My sad regret and melancholy thoughts (cried she) are now useless, my afflicted heart has lived a whole year betwixt hope and fear, but now the fatal time is come: This day, some few hours hence, I must die or marry the giant. Alas! it is impossible the Sovereign Fairy, and the prince Constantio should thus abandon me! What have I done? But what need all these reflections? I had better execute my noble design.' Hereupon she rose up with boldness to throw herself off; but as the least noise frightened her, and hearing the pigeon stir in the trees, she lifted up her eyes to see what it was; when he taking that opportunity, flew upon her shoulder, and put the ring in her bosom. The princess was surprised

prised at the caresses of the bird, but much more at the present he made her: and looking at it some time, observed mysterious characters. When the giant came into the garden, unheard by her, for some of the women, who waited on her, had informed that dreadful lover of the princess's despair, and that she was determined to kill herself, rather than marry him: And knowing that she went early that morning upon the top of the tower, he dreaded some dismal catastrophe; and his heart, which never, till then, had been capable of any thing but barbarities, was so engaged by the charms of that lovely maid, that he loved her with tenderness. But, O Heavens! what a condition she was in, when she saw him? She was afraid he would prevent the means she sought of death: and the poor pigeon was not a little terrified at this formidable Colossus. However, the princess, in the trouble and confusion of her soul, slipped the ring on her finger, and was immediately changed into a dove, and flew away with her faithful pigeon.

Never was surprise equal to that of the giant's, who, after having seen his mistress metamorphosed into a dove, and traversing the open air, remained sometime motionless; then he made most dreadful outcries and howlings, that shook the neighbouring mountains, and with them ended his life. The charming princess flew after her guide, and when they had taken a long flight, they alighted in a thick shady wood, rendered very agreeable by the grass and flowers that grew therein. Constantia knew not that the pigeon was her beloved prince, and he was grieved that he could not speak, to tell her: when suddenly he felt an invisible hand unloose his tongue, and said to the princess; 'Charming Dove, your heart hath not yet informed you, that you are with a pigeon that burns always with the flames your bright eyes first kindled.' 'My heart (replied she) has ever wished for this happiness, but never durst flatter itself: Alas! who could imagine it? I was at the
very

' very brink of destruction, and you came and snatched
 ' me out of the arms of death, or from a monster
 ' much more terrible.' The prince overjoyed to hear
 the words of his Dove, and to find her as tender as his
 desires could wish, said whatever the most delicate and
 lively passion could inspire; and told her all that had hap-
 pened since the sad moment of their separation, parti-
 cularly the surprising adventure of the forge, and how
 he came to the fairy's palace. She was overjoyed to
 find that her best friend had all along interested her-
 self in her behalf: and thereupon said Constantia,
 ' Let us go, my dear prince, and thank her for all
 ' these favors, perhaps she may restore us to our for-
 ' mer shapes, and then we will return back to your
 ' kingdom or mine.' ' If you love me with an equal
 ' flame (answered he) I have one proposal to make,
 ' wherein love is only concerned: But, lovely prin-
 ' cess, you will say I am extravagant.' Value not
 ' the reputation of your thoughts before the ease of
 ' your heart, (replied she) speak without reserve; I
 ' shall always take a pleasure to hear you.' ' Then
 ' I would advise (said he) not to change our forms;
 ' we may burn, you a dove, and I a pigeon, with a pas-
 ' sion as ardent as Constantio and Constantia; and
 ' I am persuaded, that being free from the cares of
 ' crowned heads, we may live only for each other in
 ' this delightful solitude.' ' Ah! (cried the dove)
 ' How delicate and great is this design! for though I
 ' am young, I have undergone so many misfortunes,
 ' since fortune, jealous of my innocent beauty,
 ' has persecuted me so obstinately, that I shall be over-
 ' joyed to forsake every thing to live with you. I con-
 ' sent, my dear prince, let us pitch upon an agreeable
 ' country, and under this metamorphosis spend our
 ' days, innocent and free from ambition, and all de-
 ' sires, but those of virtuous love. At that instant
 Cupid descending from heaven, cried out, ' I am
 ' your guide, a design so full of tenderness deserves
 ' my protection.' ' And mine too (said the Sove-
 ' reign

• reign Fairy, who appeared all on a sudden ;) I come
• to partake in your joy.' The pigeon and dove were
as much pleased as surprised, and put themselves under
the care of the fairy. Cupid invited them to Paphos,
where he told them his mother was worshipped, and
doves admitted ; but Constantia told them, they de-
sired to have no commerce with men, but were
happy they could enjoy a pleasant solitude.

The fairy struck the earth with her wand, and love
touched it with his golden quiver, and presently a
wood appeared, adorned with meadows, fountains
and fruit trees ; ' Stay here (said love) and swear a
• lasting fidelity to each other, in the presence of
• this wonderful fairy.' Which they both did. After
that, the fairy promised, if they would leave that
metamorphosis she never would forsake them, but
would restore them to their former shapes.—They
thanked her, and assured her, it was not in the least
their desire, since they had made too much trial
of the misfortunes attending human life. The
fairy approved of their despising the greatness of the
world ; and then Cupid and she retired to their
mansions, leaving the pigeon and dove as examples
of a tender and sincere passion : And ever since
that time, they have been represented as true emblems
of love and constancy.



THE
S T O R Y
OF THE
YELLOW DWARF.

THERE was a queen, who, though she had many children, had but one living, which was a beautiful daughter; and being left a widow, and without hopes of having any more, was so much afraid of losing her, that she never gave her any correction for what faults she committed: Infomuch that that admirable person, who knew her own beauty, and as she was born to a crown, was so vain and proud of her growing charms, that she despised all the world besides. The queen her mother contributed, by her caresses and complaisance to persuade her none were deserving of her. She was dressed every day like a Pallas or Diana, followed by her nymphs: And in short, the queen, to give the finishing stroke to her vanity, called her All Fair: and having had her picture drawn by the best painters, sent it to all the kings with whom she was in alliance, who, when they saw it, were not able to resist the inevitable power of her charms: Some fell sick; others run mad; and those who escaped either sickness or madness, came to her court, and as soon as they saw her, became her slaves.

Never

Never was any court more gallant and polite ; twenty kings studied to please her, who after they had spent immense sums upon an entertainment upon her, thought themselves fully recompensed, if she said any thing that was pretty to them. The adorations that were paid to her, overjoyed the queen her mother ; not a day passed over her head, but she had thousands of songs and fine copies of verses sent by the most famous poets in the world. In short, All Fair was the only subject of the most renowned authors, both in prose and verse. The princess was about fifteen.— There were none who did not desire to marry her ; but they durst not pretend to that honour, it was so difficult a task to touch a heart of that stamp. Her lovers murmured very much against her cruelty ; and the queen, who wanted to have her married, knew not how to gain her consent : Sometimes she would say to her, ‘ Will you not abate somewhat of that intolerable pride that makes you condemn all the kings that come to our court ? I will chuse one for you ; shew me in this some complacency.’ ‘ I am already happy, (replied All Fair) in the easy indifference I now live in ; if I should once lose that, you would be angry.’ ‘ I should perhaps be angry if you loved any one beneath you (answered the queen) but you cannot have more deserving princes than those that now ask you.’ In short, the princess was so prepossessed of her own merit, that she thought it greater than what it was ; and by this resolution of hers to live a maid, began to grieve her mother so much, that she repented, but too late, that she had humoured her so much.

The queen, uncertain what to do, goes all alone to find a celebrated fairy, that was called the Desert Fairy ; but as it was a hard thing to see her, because she was guarded by two lions, unless she made a cake for them of millet, sugarcandy and crocodiles eggs, she prepared one herself, and put it into a little basket, which

which she hung upon her arm: But being weary with walking further than she was used to, she laid herself down under the shade of a tree to rest herself, and there insensibly fell asleep, and when she awaked, found only her basket, and her cake gone; and to complete her misfortune heard the lions coming.—

‘Alas! (cried she) what will become of me? I shall be devoured.’ And having no power to stir, she leaned against the tree she had slept under, when hearing somebody say, hem! hem! she looked about on all sides, and raising her eyes, perceived a little man in the tree about half a yard in height eating oranges, who said to her, ‘O queen, I know you, and the fear and you are in lest these lions should devour you: I cannot blame you, they have devoured a great many, to your misfortune you want a cake.’ ‘I must resolve on death (replied the queen sighing) but alas! I could not be so much grieved was my dear girl but married!’ ‘What have you a daughter?’ (said the Yellow Dwarf, who was called so from his complexion and the orange tree he lived in:) ‘Indeed I am very glad of that, for I have sought after a wife both by sea and land: Now if you will promise me I shall have her, I will secure you both from lions, tygers and bears.’ The queen looked at him as much frightened at his horrible little figure, as at the lions, and musing some time, returned no answer.— ‘What, do you hesitate, madam? (cried he) it seems you are not very fond of life.’ At the same time the lions appeared on the top of a small hill, running towards her: at which sight the queen, who trembled like a dove when she sees a kite, cried out with all her might, ‘Good Sir Dwarf, All Fair is yours.’ ‘O! (said he, with an air of disdain) All Fair is too fair, I will not have her.’ ‘O Sir (continued the afflicted queen) do not refuse her, she is the most charming princess in the world.’ ‘Well (said he) I will take her out of charity; but remember the gift you
make

‘make me.’ And thereupon the orange tree opened, and the queen was let into it, and so escaped from the lions. She was vexed she could find no door to that tree, when at last she perceived one that opened into a field full of nettles and thistles, surrounded with a muddy ditch: in the middle thereof stood a little thatched house, out of which the yellow dwarf came in a pleasant air, wooden shoes, a coarse yellow stuff jacket, and without any hair to hide his large ears. ‘I am glad, good mother-in-law (said he to the queen) to see you in this my abode, where your daughter is to live with me; she may keep an ass to ride on within these nettles and thistles, and may secure herself from the injuries of the weather under this rustick roof; she will have this water to drink, and may eat some of these frogs that are fattened in it; Besides I always shall bear her company, and never shall leave her.’

When the unfortunate queen came to consider on the deplorable life the dwarf promised her dear child, she was not able to support the terrible idea, but fell into a swoon, and had not the power to say one word; and while she was in that condition, was conveyed to her own bed, in a fine suit of night-clothes of the newest fashion. As soon as the queen came to herself, she remembered what had happened, but knew not how to believe it, seeing she was in her own palace, in the midst of all the ladies of her court, and her daughter by her bed-side: But the fine night-clothes, which were of a curious lace, amazed her as much as the dream she fancied she had had; and through the excess of her disquiet she fell into such an extraordinary fit of melancholy, that she hardly either spoke, eat or slept. The princess, who loved her at her heart, was very much grieved, and often asked her what was the matter; when the queen, to deceive her, told her sometimes it proceeded from her ill state of health, and at other times from some of the neighbouring princes threatening

threatening to make war against her. Though All Fair found these answers very plausible, however she knew there was something more in the bottom, which the queen endeavoured to hide from her; and being able no longer to endure her uneasiness, resolved to go to the Desert Fairy to ask her advice, whether or no she should marry, since she was so much pressed to it: She took care to make a cake to appease the lions, and pretending to go to bed earlier than ordinary, went down a pair of back-stairs, in a white veil that reached down to her feet, then set forward on her journey.

When the princess came to the fatal orange tree, she saw it so loaded with fruit, that she had a great mind to gather some, whereupon she set down her basket, and plucked some and eat them; but when she went to look for her basket and cake, and found them taken away, her grief was inexpressible, and turning about, espied the little frightful dwarf, who said to her, 'What makes you cry, child?' 'Alas! who can forbear? (replied she) I have lost my basket and cake, which were, so very necessary in my journey to the Desert Fairy's. 'What want you with her?' (asked this little monkey) I am your relation and friend, and am as knowing to the full as she.'— 'The queen my mother (replied the princess) is grown very melancholy, which makes me fear for her life; I fancy I may be the cause of it, since she has desired me to marry, and I must own to you, I have not yet found any one that I think deserving enough of me: These are the reasons that have engaged me to speak with the fairy.' 'Princess, give yourself no further trouble (said the Dwarf) I am more proper to inform you about these things: The queen your mother is vexed that she has promised you in marriage.' 'The queen promised me in marriage! (said she, interrupting him) undoubtedly you are mistaken, she would certainly have told me of it:

‘ I am too much concerned in that affair, to be engaged without my own consent.’ ‘ Beautiful princess (said the dwarf, throwing himself at her feet) I flatter myself this choice will not be displeasing to you, when I tell you I am destined to that happiness.’ ‘ My mother chose you for a son-in-law ! (cried All Fair, falling back some steps; was ever any folly like yours?’ ‘ I am not very fond of the honour (said he, in a passion) but here are the lions, who will revenge my affront.’

‘ At the same time the princess heard the lions roaring ‘ What will become of me ? (said she) must I thus end my days? The wicked dwarf looked at her, and with a malicious smile, said, ‘ You shall have the glory of dying, and not bestowing your shining merit on a poor miserable dwarf, such as I am.’— ‘ Pray be not angry (said the princess, lifting up her hands) I’d rather marry all the dwarfs in the world, than die after so frightful a manner.’ ‘ Observe me well, princess (said he) before you give me your word; for I do not pretend to surprise you.’ ‘ I have already (replied she) but the lions approach towards me; save me, or I shall die with fear.’ In short, she fell into a swoon, and without knowing how she got there, found herself in her own bed, in the finest linen and ribbons possible, with a ring of one single red hair, so fast upon her finger that she could not get it off.

When the princess saw all this, and remembered what had passed before, she grew so melancholy, that all the court were surprised and uneasy at it. The queen was most alarmed of all, and asked a thousand times what was the matter; but she was determined in herself to conceal her adventure from her. At last the states of the kingdom, impatient to have their princess married, assembled and addressed the queen to make choice of an husband for her out of hand.— The queen told them, it was what she had most at heart,

but that her daughter was very much against it. However she advised them to go to her, and talk with her about it; which they did immediately. All Fair, whose pride was somewhat abated, since her adventure with the yellow dwarf, thought it would be the best way to marry some potent prince, with whom this little ape would not dare to dispute so glorious a conquest: and gavethem a favourable answer, and consented to marry the King of the Golden Mines, who was a powerful and handsome prince, who loved her with a violent passion, and who never till then durst entertain any hopes. We may easily guess at the excess of his joy, and his rival's rage, when the news was declared. There were great preparations made against the nuptials, and the king of the golden mines launched out such prodigious sums of money, that the sea was full of ships, that were sent to the remotest parts for the greatest rarities. In short, that prince discovered such lively and delicate sentiments, that she began to have some passion for him. Thus were they both happy; when one day the king, who was both gallant and in love, took the liberty to discover his tenderness to her in the garden, in verses of his own making, among which he repeated these lines.

*The verdant leaves bud out when you appear,
And all the trees their brightest liveries wear;
The flowers spring forth by your indulgent heat,
And am'rous birds their little songs repeat:
In this blest place, distant from care and crowns,
All nature smiles, and you her goddess owns.*

In the midst of all this joy, the king's rivals, who were in the utmost despair at his good fortune, and sensible of the most piercing grief, left the court, and returned to their own dominions, not being able to be eye-witnesses to the princess's marriage; but before they went they took their leaves of her in so obliging a manner,

manner, that she could not but pity them. ‘ O! Madam (said the king of the golden mines) what do you rob me of by granting your pity to lovers, who are over and above recompensed for their pains by one single look from you!’ ‘ I should be angry (replied the princess) if you was insensible of the compassion I have shewn those princes, to whom I am lost for ever; it is a proof of your delicacy, which I approve of; But, sir, their conditions are far different from yours; you ought to be pleased with what I have done for you: They have no reason to be so, therefore you should restrain your jealousy.’—The king of the golden mines was so confounded at the obliging manner that the princess took a thing that might very well have displeased her, that he threw himself at her feet, kissed her hand, and asked a thousand pardons.

At last the long wished-for day came, and the nuptials were proclaimed, by sounding of trumpets, and all other ceremonies; the balconies were all adorned with tapestries, and the houses bedecked with flowers.—The queen was so overjoyed, that she was hardly in bed, and got to sleep, but she rose again to give the necessary orders, and to chuse out the jewels the princess was to wear that day. She was covered almost over with diamonds, and on her gown, which was a silver brocade, were twelve suns formed with diamonds. But nothing appeared so bright as that princess’s natural charms; a rich crown was set upon her head, her hair hung down almost to her feet, and the majesty of her shape distinguished her from all the ladies that attended on her. The King of the Golden Mines shewed himself no less accomplished and magnificent; joy and cheerfulness appeared in all his actions: None approached him, but he loaded them with his gifts and presents; for he had ordered some thousands of tons of gold, and velvet sacks, embroidered with pearls, full of guineas, to be placed in the hall, were

all that put forth their hands, received handfuls of gold: inasmuch that this part of the ceremony drew there great crowds of people. that would have been insensible of all the other pleasures.

As the queen, king and princess were going out into a long gallery, they saw a box move towards them, in which there sat a large old woman, at whose age and decrepitude they were not so much surprised, as at her ugliness: She leaned upon a crutch, had a black taffety ruff on, a red velvet hood, and a farthingale all in rags; and after having taken two or three turns about, without speaking a word, she stopped in the middle of the gallery, and shaking her crutch in a threatening manner, cried out, 'Ho, ho! you queen and princess, do you think to falsify unpunished your words, which you gave my friend the Yellow Dwarf? I am the Desert Fairy: and do not you know, that if it had not been for him and his orange-tree, you had been devoured by my lions? These insults to fairies shall not be allowed; think presently on what you design; for I swear by my coif you shall marry him, or I will burn my crutch.' 'Ah! princess (said the queen in tears) what is this that I hear? What have you promised?' 'Ah! Mother, (replied the princess, full of grief) what have you promised?' The King of the Gold Mines, enraged at what had passed, and that this wicked old woman should come to oppose his happiness, drew his sword, and going up towards her, pointed it to her throat: 'Wretch (said he) be gone from hence, or I'll revenge thy malice on thy life.' He had no sooner pronounced these words but the upper part of the box flew off with a great noise and out came the Yellow Dwarf, mounted on a large spanish cat, and placed himself between the Desert Fairy and the King of the Gold Mines: 'Rash youth (said he) think not to commit this violence on the illustrious fairy, thy rage shall light on me; I am thy rival and thy enemy: The false princess, who was going to
bestow

‘ bestow herself on thee, has given me her word, and
‘ received mine; see if she has not got a ring of
‘ my hair upon her finger, by that you may judge of
‘ my right to her.’ ‘Hideous monster (said the king)
‘ hast thou the boldness to call thyself the adorer of
‘ this divine princess, and to pretend to so glorious a
‘ possession? Thou art such a baboon, such an odious
‘ figure, that I had sacrificed thee before now, hadst
‘ thou been worthy of so honourable a death.’ The
Dwarf, piqued to the very soul at these words, clapped his spurs in the cat’s sides, which made such a mewling, and flying about, as frightened all but the king, who hemmed in the dwarf so close, that he drew a large cutlass, with which he was armed, and defying the king to a combat, went down into the court of the palace, making a terrible noise. The enraged king followed him as fast as possible; and when they stood opposite to each other, ready to begin the combat, the sun on a sudden turned as red as blood, and it grew as dark as pitch; it thundered and lightened, and by the flashes of the lightning, the king and all the court, who were got into the balconies, perceived two giants vomiting fire on each side of the dwarf; all which was not capable of daunting the magnanimous heart of this young monarch, who shewed a wonderful intrepidity in his looks and actions, that encouraged all who were concerned for his safety; and gave the dwarf and his enemies some confusion. But all his courage was not proof against what he saw the princess endure; when the Desert Fairy, with her head covered with snakes, like Tisiphone, and mounted on a winged griffin, struck her so hard with a lance she carried in her hand, that she fell into the ‘queen’s arms all over blood. This tender mother, who was touched to the very soul to see her daughter in this condition, made most sad complaints; and for the king, he lost both all his reason and courage, left the combat, and ran to the princess, to succour her, or die with her; but

the Yellow Dwarf would not give him time to get to her, but flew on his spanish cat into the balcony where she was, and took her out of her mother's arms, and from all the ladies, and then leaping upon the top of the palace, disappeared with his prey.

The king confused and motionless, looked on such an extraordinary adventure with the utmost despair, since it was not in his power to help it; when to complete his misfortunes, he found a mist before his eyes, and himself lifted up by some extraordinary power in the air; for the wicked fairy, who came to assist the yellow dwarf in taking away the princess, had no sooner set her eyes on the King of the Gold Mines, but her heart grew sensible of that young prince's merit; and that he might be her prey, she therefore carried him to the bottom of a frightful cavern, and there loaded him with chains fixed to a rock, hoping that the dread of an approaching death might make him forget All Fair, and engage him to do as she would have him. As soon as he arrived there, she restored him his sight, and borrowing by the fairy-art, all those charms and graces that nature had denied her, appeared to him like a lovely nymph, that was come that way by chance.

• What is this that my eyes behold? (said she) what have
 • you done, charming prince, that you are kept here?
 • Whereupon, the king, deceived by these false appearances, replied; • Alas! fair nymph, I know not what
 • the infernal fury that brought me hither would have;
 • for though, when she took me away, she deprived
 • me of my sight, and has not since appeared, yet I
 • know by her voice, that she was the Desert Fairy.—
 • Oh! Sir (cried the false nymph) you are in the hands
 • of a woman, who will not let you go till you marry
 • her; 'tis what she has done by several heroes: She
 • is the most obstinate woman in the world in these
 • affairs.' But while she pretended to bear a share
 in the king's affliction, he perceived her griffin-feet,
 which was always a mark by which the fairy was known
 in all her metamorphoses, which she could not change;
 and

and seeming to take no notice of it, but speaking in an air of confidence, said, ' Indeed I have no aversion to the Desert Fairy : but I cannot bear that she should protect the Yellow Dwarf, and keep me chained thus like a criminal : What have I done ? I love, 'tis true, a charming princess : and had I my liberty, it would engage me in gratitude to love the fairy.' ' Do you use it sincerely ?' (said the pretended nymph.) ' Doubt you of it ?' (replied the king) I am a novice in the art of dissembling : and I must own to you a fairy has much more to flatter my vanity with, than a princess ; but if I loved her to distraction, and she confined me, I should hate her.

Deceived by these words, the Desert Fairy resolved to transport him to a place as agreeable as this was horrible : and to that end, obliged him to get into her chariot, which was then drawn by swans, whereas it was generally drawn by bats. But in what a condition was this prince, when as he was traversing the waste space of air, he saw his dear princess in a castle of polished steel, the walls of which cast such a reflection when the sun shined, that there was no going near it ; she was laid in a grove by a brook-side, leaning her head on one hand, and wiping away her tears with the other : And as she was looking up to heaven to ask relief, she saw the King pass along with the Desert Fairy, who, as she had made use of her art to seem handsome to that young monarch, she appeared to the princess the most charming person in the world.—

' What (cried she) am not I unfortunate enough to be in this inaccessible castle, whither this ugly dwarf has brought me ; but to add to my misfortunes, I must be tormented with jealousies ? Must I be informed, by such an extraordinary adventure, of the infidelity of the King of the Gold Mines, who has certainly thought that by losing the sight of me, he was freed from his oaths ? But who can this formidable rival be, whose fatal beauty surpasses mine ?' While she was saying these words, the amorous king felt a mortal

pain, in being carried away with such swiftness from the dear object of his vows: Had he not known the fairy's power, he would certainly have tried to have got from her, either by killing her, or some other means that his love and courage would have suggested to him; but how could he attempt any thing at that time?

The fairy also perceived the princess, and sought in the king's eyes to penetrate into the effect that sight might produce in his heart. 'None can inform you so well as myself, of what you want to know (said he to her) the unexpected meeting with that unhappy princess, for whom I had some respect, before I was acquainted with your charms, gave me some small disturbance; but you have so much greater sway over me, that I would sooner die than be false to you.' 'Ah! prince (said she) may I flatter myself with having inspired you with such favourable sentiments for me?' 'Time shall convince you, madam (replied he) but if you would make me sensible that I have any part in your esteem, deny not All Fair your assistance.' 'Do you know what you ask? (answered the fairy, knitting her brows and frowning) What, would you have me make use of my knowledge against the Yellow Dwarf, who is my best friend, to force a proud princess, whom I must look upon as my rival, out of his hands? No, I cannot bear the thoughts of it.' At that the king sighed inwardly, but durst return no answer. At last they came to a large meadow, enamelled with various flowers, and surrounded by a deep river, into which there ran several small brooks, which formed meanders about little hols of trees, where there was always a fresh air: At a small distance stood a stately palace, the walls of which were of transparent emeralds, and as soon as the swans that drew them alighted, thousands of beautiful persons came to receive the fairy with acclamations of joy, and
songs

songs in praise of her charms and her choice; which overjoyed the fairy to hear them mention her amours. She led the king into the most magnificent apartment that had ever been seen in the memory of fairies, and leaving him there, and thinking she was not sure she had captivated him, she got into an obscure place, from whence she might observe all his actions; and he fancying she would watch him, went to a large glass, and said to it, 'Faithful adviser, permit me to study out ways to render myself agreeable to the charming fairy, whom I adore, for great is my desire to please.' And, thereupon, he painted, powdered and patched, put on a magnificent suit of clothes that lay ready for him, and adjusted himself the best he could.

Upon this, the fairy went in unto him so much transported with joy, that she could not moderate it,— 'I shall not forget (said she) the care you have taken to please me, you have found out the true and only way: You see, sir, it is not so difficult when people please.' The king, who thought that saying fine things to the fairy was the best card he could play, spared no soft expressions at this juncture, and by that means got leave to take a walk on the sea shore, which the fairy, by her art, had rendered so dangerous and boisterous, that no pilots were so bold as to venture to sail in it, so that she was under no apprehensions of her prisoner's escaping, who thought it a great assuagement to his pains to muse alone, and think of his dearest princess, without being interrupted by his hateful gaoler. When he had walked there some time, kissed the sand, and invoked the powers of the sea, he heard a voice, which made him give great attention, and observing the waves to swell, and regarding them stedfastly, he perceived a beautiful mermaid arise with a looking-glass in one hand, and combing her hair, which was gently agitated by the winds with the other. At the sight the king was very much sur-

prised; but much more when it came and said to him
 ' I know the sad condition you are reduced to, by
 ' your separation from your princess, and the Desert
 ' Fairy's passion for you; if you approve of it, I will
 ' carry you away from this fatal place, where, perhaps,
 ' you may languish out thirty or forty years.' The
 king knew not what answer to return; not but he de-
 sired to be delivered from his captivity, but for fear
 the fairy had assumed a new form to deceive him:
 And as he hesitated, the syren, who guessed at his
 thoughts, said, ' Fear not, this is no snare laid for
 ' you; I am too much an enemy to the Desert Fairy
 ' and the Yellow Dwarf, to serve them; I see your
 ' unfortunate princess every day, her beauty and
 ' merit raises my pity; and I tell you again, if you
 ' have any confidence in me, I will assist you to get
 ' away.' ' I have so much in you (cried the king)
 ' that I will do whatever you bid me? but since you
 ' have seen my princess, tell me some news from her.'
 ' We shall lose too much time in talking (replied the
 ' syren) come along with me, and I will carry you
 ' to the steel castle, and leave on this shore a figure
 ' so like you, that the fairy shall be deceived by it.'

She presently cut down some sea-rushes, and bundled
 them together, and blowing upon them, said, ' My
 ' good friends, I order you not to stir off from this
 ' beach, till the Desert Fairy comes and takes you
 ' away.' Whereupon a skin grew soon over the rushes,
 and they became so like the King of the Gold Mines,
 that it was surprising; they were clothed like the
 king, and looked pale and dead, as if he had been
 drowned. After this the Syren made the king sit upon
 the fish's tail, and both sailed away in a rolling sea,
 with all imaginable satisfaction. When they were
 at some distance from the shore, the Syren said, ' I
 ' will now tell you how the wicked Dwarf carried the
 ' princess away: He set her behind him on his spanish
 ' cat; and notwithstanding the blood she lost by the
 wound

‘ wound she received from the Desert Fairy, which made
‘ her swoon away, he never stopped to give her assist-
‘ ance till he had her safe in his steel castle, where
‘ he was received by some of the most beautiful persons
‘ in the world, which he had transported thither,
‘ who all shewed a great desire to serve the princess,
‘ who was put into a bed of cloth of gold, embroidered
‘ with large pearls.’ ‘ O! (cried the King of the
‘ Gold Mines) he has married her; I swoon and die
‘ away.’ ‘ No (said she) assure yourself the princess’s
‘ constancy is too firm to admit of that.’ ‘ Then go
‘ on.’ (replied he) ‘ What I have more to tell you,
‘ is (continued the Syren) she was in the grove you
‘ passed over, and saw you with the Desert Fairy,
‘ who was so painted, that she seemed to her of a much
‘ superior beauty to herself and her despair is not to
‘ be comprehended, since she fancies you love her.’—
‘ I love her! (cried the king:) just heavens! how
‘ much is she deceived? What ought not I to do, to
‘ make her sensible how much she is mistaken?’—
‘ Consult your own heart (answered the Syren, with
‘ a gracious smile) people that are deeply engaged
‘ have no need of advice on that account.’ And just
as she made an end of these words, they arrived at
the steel castle, which on the sea-side the Dwarf had
not fortified with those burning walls.

‘ I know (said the Syren) the princess is by the same
‘ brook-side, where you saw her as you passed by;
‘ but as you will have a great many enemies to fight
‘ with before you can come to her, take this sword,
‘ with which you may undertake any thing, and face
‘ the greatest dangers, provided you never let it go
‘ out of your hand. Farewell; I shall retire under
‘ that rock you see there; if you have any need of
‘ me, to conduct you farther with your princess, I
‘ shall not fail you; for the queen her mother is my
‘ best friend, and it was on her account that I have
‘ thus served you.’ After these words she gave him

the sword, which was made of one certain diamond, that gave as great a lustre as the sun; upon the receiving of it, he could use no words expressive enough for an acknowledgement; but desired her to make it up in thinking all that a generous mind was capable of.

But to return to the Desert Fairy: when she saw that her lover did not return, she hastened after to find him, running all along the shore attended with an hundred young damsels, loaded with presents for him; some brought great baskets full of diamonds, some golden vessels of admirable work, some ambergris, coral and pearls, and some carried great pieces of stuffs upon their heads of prodigious richness; others flowers, fruits and birds; in short, every thing that might be acceptable. But in what a sad condition was the fairy, when following this noble troop, she saw the rushes in the shape of the King of the Gold Mines; she was so amazed and grieved, that she gave a terrible shriek, that made the hills echo again, and seemed more furious than Megara, Alceste and Tisiphone together; she threw herself upon the body, cried, howled, and tore fifty persons that were with her in pieces, as a sacrifice to the manes of the dear deceased. Then she called eleven of her sister-fairies, to help her to erect a stately mausoleum to this young hero: who were all as much deceived as herself by the Syren, who was more powerful than they. But while they were providing porphyry, jasper, agate, marble, statues and devices in gold and brass, to immortalize the memory of the king, whom they thought to be dead, he thanked the lovely Syren, conjuring her to grant him her protection; which she engaged him she would, he had nothing to do but to advance towards the steel-castle.

Thus guided by his love, he went forward, and looking carefully about, perceived his adorable princess: but was not long without employment; for four terrible Sphinxes flew at him, and had torn him
into

into a thousand pieces, had it not been for the Syren's sword, which glittered so in their eyes, that they fell down at his feet without any strength, and he gave each a mortal wound, and so proceeded on, till he met with six dragons, whose scaled skins were harder than iron. Whatever fear such creatures might have put some into, he was too intrepid, and with his sword cut them all asunder, and thought he had surmounted the utmost difficulties, when he met with the greatest of all; which was four and twenty nymphs, holding in their hands long garlands of flowers, with which they stopped his passage: 'Whither are you going sir? (said they) We are appointed to guard this place, and if we let you pass, it will be bad both for you and us; therefore pray be not obstinate: Sure you would not imbrue your victorious arm in the blood of so many innocent young damsels, who have done you no wrong.' At these words, the king, who was a great admirer of the fair sex, and had professed himself always their protector, was so confounded to think that he must force his passage through them, that he knew not what to resolve on; when he heard a voice say, 'Strike, strike, or you lose your princess for ever.' Whereupon without making any reply, he threw himself into the midst of the nymphs, and gave them no quarter, and soon dispersed them.—This being the last obstacle he had to meet with, he went into the grove where the princess lay pale and languishing by a brook-side; and upon his approaching trembling towards her, she flew from him with as much indignation as if he had been the Yellow Dwarf. 'Condemn me not, Madam (said he) before you hear me: I am neither false nor guilty of what you imagine; but only an unfortunate wretch, that has displeased you with repugnance to himself.' 'Ah! barbarous man (cried she) I saw you traversing the air with a beautiful person; was that against your consent?' 'Yes, princess, (said he) it was: The wicked Desert Fairy not satisfied with chaining me to a rock, took me

‘ me with her in her chariot, and conveyed me to a distant part of the world, where I should have languished out my days, without hope of any succour, had it not been for a kind Syren, that brought me hither. I come my princess to deliver you out of the hands of those that detain you here: refuse not the assistance of the most faithful of lovers.’ Thereupon he threw himself at her feet, and catching hold of her gown, unfortunately let fall the formidable sword, which the Yellow Dwarf, who lay behind some small shrubs, no sooner saw out of the king’s hand, but knowing its power, he ran and seized it.

The princess, at the sight of the Dwarf, gave a terrible shriek; but all her complaints served only to exasperate the little monster, who, by two cabalistical words, conjured up two huge giants, that loaded the king with irons. ‘ I am now (said the Dwarf) master of my rival’s fate; however, I will grant him his life and liberty, on condition he consents to my marriage.’ ‘ No, I will die a thousand deaths first cried the amorous king in a rage.’ ‘ Alas! (replied the princess) the thoughts of that is the most terrible of them all.’ ‘ Nothing shocks me so much (answered the king) as that you should become a victim to this monster.’ ‘ Then (said the princess) let us die together.’ ‘ No, my princess (said the king) let me have the satisfaction of dying for you.’ ‘ I would sooner consent (said she) to the Dwarf’s desires.’ ‘ O! cruel princess (interrupted the king) should you marry him before my face, my life would ever after be odious to me.’ ‘ No, it shall not be before thy face (replied the Dwarf) for a beloved rival I cannot bear.’ And at these words he stabbed the king to the heart; whose death the princess was not able to survive, but she fell on that dear prince’s body, and poured out her soul with his. Thus died those two illustrious but unfortunate lovers, before the Syren could apply any remedy, all her power laying in the fatal sword.

The

The wicked Dwarf was better pleased to see his princess void of life, than in the arms of another ; and the Desert Fairy being informed of his adventure, conceived as great an hatred against the memory of the King of the Gold Mines, as love for his person, and destroyed the mausoleum she had erected. And for the kind mermaid, who was grieved at this misfortune, she could obtain no other favor of fate, but to change them into two palm-trees ; which preserving a faithful and lasting passion for each other, caress and unite their branches together.

THE
S T O R Y
O F
YOUNG AND HANDSOME.

HERETOFORE there lived a fairy, who strove as much as possible to resist the force of love : But all in vain ; for that little god, without employing the utmost of his power, rendered her sensible of it. A young prince arrived at her court, who was amiable and renowned for great actions he had done, and which were not unknown to the fairy.

This young prince's person answered so well the great reputation he had gained, that the fairy, who was not proof against so many charms, in a short time accepted his vows. The fairy was beautiful, and he really
really

really in love. She married him, and by that marriage made him a rich and most powerful monarch. After this union they lived a long time happy ; but the fairy growing old, the king's love, though he was as much in years himself, began to fall off, and he was taken with some of the young beauties of the court : At which the fairy conceived a jealousy, that proved fatal to many of her rivals.

The fairy, by this marriage, had only one daughter, who was the object of her tenderness, and in all respects deserving of it. The fairies, her relations, at her birth, endowed her with a sprightly wit, a most bewitching beauty, and graces more engaging than both, with a voice that captivated all who heard it. Her shape was perfectly fine, and her air noble ; her hair was a curious black, her mouth little, but always graced with smiles ; her teeth were of a surprising whiteness, her eyes black, lively and sparkling ; and her looks so tender and piercing, that they created love in all hearts ; Whereupon the fairy named her Young-and-Handsome, suspending all other gifts, that she might judge in the end what sort of happiness she might promise a daughter so dear to her.

The infidelity of the king was a continual affliction to the fairy : the misfortune of not being beloved, made her think that the greatest of all blessings was to be always amiable. This happiness, after a thousand reflections, she endowed Young-and-Handsome with, who was then about sixteen years old, when the fairy used all her knowledge, that she should always remain the same as she was at that time.—What blessing could she bestow more valuable ?

The fairy buried the king her husband, and though he had been false to her a long time, was so sensibly grieved at his death, that she resolved to leave her dominions, and retire to a castle she had built in a desert country, which she had surrounded with a vast forest, so that only she herself could find the way to it.

This

This resolution afflicted Young-and-Handsome, who was loth to part with the fairy, who commanded her absolutely to stay; but before her departure, she recalled into her palace, which was very fine, all the pleasures and diversions she had banished so long, and therewith composed the court of Young-and-Handsome, who in that agreeable company was comforted some time after, for the absence of the Fairy. All the kings and princes, who thought themselves worthy of pleasing her, came in crowds to the court of Young-and-Handsome, to endeavour, by their sedulities and love, to render so lovely a princess happy.

Nothing ever equalled the magnificence and charms of her palace, there were every day some new entertainments, every body was happy, but those lovers who adored without hope, for she looked favourably on none: but as they had the happiness to see her often, the most indifferent looks were sufficient to stay them for ever.

One day Young-and-Handsome, content with the happiness and sweets of her reign, was walking in a pleasant wood, attended only by some of her nymphs, to taste the delights of solitude; where she amused herself with pleasing thoughts, which brought her insensibly into a delicate meadow, enamelled with flowers of various colours.

Her eyes were engaged with a thousand different and agreeable objects, when perceiving a flock of sheep feeding in a meadow, by the side of a brook, which by its waters rolling among the pebbles, made soft murmurings, she discovered a young shepherd, shaded by an holt of trees, laid asleep by the brook-side, with his crook set against a tree, and a pretty little dog, which seemed to be rather his master's favourite, than the keeper of the flock, by his side.

Young-and-Handsome went to the brook, and looked on the shepherd! but how fatal was that sight! for love sleeping in the arms of Psyche, never appeared
with

with so many charms. The young fairy stopped, being unable to resist some emotions of admiration, which were soon followed by more tender sentiments. The young shepherd seemed to be about eighteen years of age, very proper and well shaped, and his hair, which was brown, and curled naturally in large flowing rings, adorned a most beautiful face. His eyes, which were closed, concealed from the fairy new darts, which love preserved to redouble her tenderness.

Young-and-Handsome felt an unusual disturbance in her breast, and had not power to leave the place, but took too much pleasure in these her sentiments, to seek to oppose them; she loved tenderly, and thought at that time only of being loved again: She durst not awake the shepherd, for fear of discovering her disorder, but taking a pleasure in revealing her passion in a more gallant and agreeable manner, rendered herself invisible, to divert herself with the amazement she designed to put him into. Some charming music was presently heard, with a symphony that struck the heart itself. These delightful sounds awakened Alidorus, which was the shepherd's name, who then thought it only an agreeable dream: But how great was his surprise, when rising off the grass where he was laid, he found himself in a fine and magnificent habit of yellow velvet trimmed with silver; his scrip embroidered with cyphers of Young-and-Handsome, and tied with a scarf of flowers; his crook of curious work, adorned with jewels of several colours, which formed nice devices; and his hat made of jonquils and blue hyacinths, intervoven with great art.

Pleased and surprised with his new dress, he viewed himself in the brook, while Young and Handsome was in a thousand apprehensions, lest he should undergo the same hard fate with the beautiful Narcissus. But how much greater was his astonishment, when he saw his sheep fleeced with silk as white as snow, instead of their ordinary wool, and bedecked with bunches of
ribbons

ribbons of various colours ; and his favorite ewe, set off like the rest, come skipping over of the grass, as if she was proud of her attire ; and his little dog with a collar of gold, set with small emeralds, which comforted these verses :

*How pants the heart seiz'd with an am'rous fire,
When it is scorch'd with lasting flames of love ?
Tho' to be handsome, can create desire,
Yet, to be happy, we must constant prove.*

The young shepherd judged, by these verses, that he was obliged to love for this agreeable adventure.— The sun was then set, and Alidorus, possessed with the most pleasing thoughts, returned to his cabin, in which he observed no change without ; but was hardly entered before a delicious odour informed him there was something new. He found his little hut hung with a tissue of jessamine and orange flowers, the curtains of his bed the same, raised up with garlands of lilies and roses, supported in their beauty by an agreeable freshness.

The floor was china, whereon were represented the stories of all the goddesses who fell in love with shepherds : Alidorus who had a great deal of wit, observed it : For the shepherds in that country were not common shepherds ; some of them being descended from kings and great princes ; as Alidorus, derived his origin from a prince that governed those people before they were subject to the fairies.

Till then the young shepherd had been insensible : but now he began to perceive that his young heart, though he could fix on no object, burnt to surrender : he almost died with impatience to know the goddess or fairy that shewed him such favourable marks of her tenderness. He walked about with the greatest uneasiness imaginable, and he knew not what to think.— Night came on, a fine illumination appeared in his cabin,

cabin, and his musings were interrupted by a delicious and stately supper that was set before him: 'What' (said the shepherd smiling) always new pleasures 'and nobody to partake of them with me!' His little dog would have played with him, but he was too much taken up to answer his caresses; when sitting down, a little Cupid presented him drink in a cup made of one little diamond. He asked this little love some questions, who, instead of answering them, drew some arrows, which, as soon as they reached the shepherd, were changed into a sweet smelling water. Alidorus comprehended by these little tricks, that the little rogue was ordered not to explain this mystery.—As soon as Alidorus had done, the little cupid flew away, and the table vanished.

Afterwards he heard a charming symphony, which creating a thousand tender sentiments in his heart, his impatience to know to whom he was obliged for so much pleasure, continually increased; when with a great deal of satisfaction he heard these words sung:

*Tell me, Cupid, what bright form
Will wound the swain I love?
Say what charms I must put on,
That may his passion move.*

*My constant love, let him not doubt,
Tho' that won't always please;
Great God increase my stock of charms,
My truth will give me ease.*

'Come then charming object (cried the Shepherd) 'and by your presence complete my felicity: I believe you too lovely ever to be capable of being unfaithful to your charms.' No answer was returned, the music ceased soon after, and a profound silence reigned, which invited the shepherd to take a sweet repose.

He

He threw himself upon his bed, where he slept but little, agitated by his impatience and growing passion. At day break he awakened by the harmonious warblings of the birds, arose and drove his flock to the same place where the day before his good fortune began. He was no sooner sat down by the brook-side, but a pavilion of a bright green and gold coloured stuff was fastened to the boughs of the trees to secure him from the scorchings of the sun. His pavilion, flock and habit surprised all the young shepherds and shepherdesses about him, they came in great haste, and asked him, with earnestness, the reasons of those strange alterations: And Alidorus smiling, told them all that had happened. There was not a shepherd but what was jealous, nor shepherdess but blushed with rage and envy, since there was scarce one of the latter, who had not formed designs of gaining the heart of this lovely shepherd, and a goddess, or a fairy, were either of them too dangerous rivals.

Young-and-Handsome, who never lost sight of her shepherd, suffered the conversation of the shepherdesses with impatience; some of them were charming, and a lovely shepherdess may prove a formidable rival to a goddess herself. But Alidorus's indifference, and their being obliged to love that shepherd, and drive their flocks further on the meadow, encouraged the young fairy.

Some time after, when none but shepherds were with Alidorus, a delicious entertainment appeared on a white marble table, with seats of green around it, of which Alidorus and those shepherds partook; when sitting down at the table, they found themselves clothed in magnificent habits, but none so fine as Alidorus, who shined again with jewels. A rustic music, but very fine, echoed all around, and these words were sung:

Alidorus's happiness confess,

By whom love his power has shewn:

Suits that know his killing charms,

Regard the choice my heart does own.

The shepherds amazement increased every minute, and some shepherdesses, drawn by the music, coming to the brook-side, they began a very agreeable country-dance. The young fairy, who was always present, but invisible assumed, with six of her nymphs, the habits of shepherdesses, dressed with garlands of flowers, with their crooks very prettily wrought; at which time Young-and-Handsome, who had on a head-dress of jonquils, which had the most agreeable effect imaginable on her fine black hair, appeared the most beautiful person in the world.

The arrival of these shepherdesses surprised all the assembly: all the beauties there conceiving jealousies, and the shepherds seeking with great earnestness to pay them the utmost respect.

Young-and-Handsome, who was not known to be a fairy, received all the honours, and, like the loadstone, attracted all the hearts; for there the most sincere homages, were paid to beauty alone, which flattered Young-and-Handsome with the effect of hers, since there her rank had not the least share.

For Alidorus, as soon as she appeared, forgetting the love a goddess, or a fairy, had for him, flew to Young-and-Handsome, and approached her with the best grace in the world: 'Come, charming shepherdess (said he) accept of a place more worthy of you; so delicate a person is too much superior to other beauties, to stay intermixed with them.' Then offering his hand, Young-and-Handsome, pleased with the sentiments she had inspired the young shepherd with, suffered herself to be led by him. Alidorus conducted her under the pavilion, where some young shepherds, by Alidorus's orders, brought bundles of flowers and greens, and raised a kind of throne, whereon they placed Young and-Handsome. The lovely young shepherd laid himself at her feet, the nymphs sat by her, and the rest of the company made a ring, where every one seated themselves according to their inclination.

This

This circle of beauties was a most agreeable sight ; where the purling streams and the harmonious symphony, intermixed with the warblings of the birds, which flocked about them, made a complete concert.—Shepherds came in troops to make their court to Young-and-Handsome ; and one among them, who was called Iphis, going up to the young fairy, ‘ Though this seat whereon you are placed by Alidorus (said he to her) is very agreeable, yet notwithstanding it is very dangerous.’ ‘ I believe (replied the fairy, with a smile capable of captivating all hearts) the shepherdesses of this hamlet will hardly pardon in me the preference which Alidorus seems to give me, before so many beauties much more deserving.’—‘ No, (said Iphis) our shepherdesses are more just, but a goddess loves Alidorus.’ Then he, telling her the whole adventure of that lovely shepherd, and having made an end of that relation, the young fairy turning herself towards Alidorus, said, with a gracious smile, ‘ I will not create myself so formidable an enemy as the goddess, by whom you are beloved : without doubt she hath not destined me the place I possess, therefore I shall surrender it up to her ;’ and in saying these words she got up. ‘ Stay (said Alidorus, looking on her tenderly and stopping her) stay, beautiful shepherdess, there is no goddess, whose tenderness I would not sacrifice to the pleasure of adoring you : and that goddess Iphis hath told you of, is not very subtle, at least in love affairs, to permit me the sight of you.’ Young-and-Handsome could not then return any answer ; for they took her out just at the very moment to dance. Never any person acquitted herself with so good a grace. And for the lovely shepherd, he even surpassed himself.—None of all the magnificent entertainments at the court of Young-and-Handsome ever gave her so much pleasure as this rural assembly ; for love embellishes all places, where we can see the persons we desire.

Alidorus

Alidorus found his love increase every moment, and swore a thousand times to sacrifice all the goddesses and fairies in the world to the tender passion his shepherdess inspired in him. Young-and-Handsome was charmed with these sentiments of her beloved shepherd; but was willing to make further trial of his passion. Iphis was amiable, and if Alidorus had not been there, without doubt had had the preference. The young fairy spoke to him twice in a favourable manner, and danced often with him.

At which Alidorus conceived a jealousy as violent as his love, which was not unobserved by Young-and-Handsome; who, thinking herself sure of her shepherd's heart, forbore to torment him, and spoke no more to Iphis all that day; but cast more favorable looks on Alidorus, which of themselves were able to vanquish the most insensible.

At night this fair assembly broke up with regret, when Young-and-Handsome would not permit any of the shepherds to accompany her, but was followed by a thousand sighs: However, she promised Alidorus to meet him the next day in the meadow, and then went away with her nymphs. The shepherds let them go, hoping by following at a distance, to know what hamlet those divine persons belonged to; but as soon as they had gained a little wood, which deprived their followers of the sight of them, she and her nymphs disappeared, and amused themselves sometime to see the shepherds searching out the path they believed they had gone.—Young-and-Handsome observed with pleasure that Alidorus seemed the most earnest. Iphis was in despair that they stayed so long before they pursued them; and a great many other shepherds, whose hearts the nymphs had captivated, spent most of the night to find them out.

Young-and-Handsome returned to her palace, where (though a fairy may have many occasions to be absent) she found all her lovers very uneasy, that they had

had not seen her all that day; but none of them durst reproach her; for those who were her lovers were forced to be submissive and respectful, or leave her court. So severe was she, that they durst not tell her of their tenderness; but hoped only to gain her by their assiduities, respect, and constancy.

Young and-Handsome seemed to take very little notice of any thing: she eat but little, was often musing, and the princes her admirers, who were observers of all her actions, thought they heard her often sigh. — She took leave of her court betimes, and retired to her apartment: for when we are to see again those we love, every thing that obstructs that happiness seems cold and troublesome.

The young fairy, with her nymphs, were instantly at her beloved shepherd's cabin, concealed in a cloud. He seemed very melancholy for not finding out the way his divine shepherdess had taken, but found his cottage as charming as he left it: only casting his eyes upon the floor, he perceived it was changed, and instead of the histories of goddesses who were in love with shepherds, he saw terrible examples of unfortunate lovers, who were not deserving the tenderness of those divinities.

'You are in the right (cried the lovely shepherd)
'you are in the right, goddess; I deserve your anger: But why suffered you my eyes to behold a
'shepherdess so lovely? Alas! what deity was able to
'withstand her charms?'

Young-and-Handsome, who was then in the cottage when Alidorus pronounced these words, felt all her softness and tenderness redoubled. Then appeared another magnificent supper, which Alidorus made not so good a use of as that of the night before: He was too much in love, and at the same time jealous; he often recalled in his mind his shepherdess, her speaking of Iphis; but the promise she made him, that he should see her again the next day, somewhat mitigated his pain.

The little love waited on him all the time; but Alidorus, wholly taken up with his disquiet, said not one word to him. The table disappeared, and a young child making up to Alidorus, presented him with two boxes, in which were magnificent pictures, and then flew away.

The shepherd immediately opened one of them, wherein was the picture of a young lady of a transcendent beauty; under which these words were wrote in letters of gold:

Thy happiness consists in his tenderness.

'Who but he who hath seen my shepherdes, (said Alidorus, looking on the picture) could resist those charms?' Then snutting the box, he laid it carelessly on the table, and afterwards he opened the other box: But how great was his surprise, when he saw the picture of his shepherdes, shining with all those charms that had made so lively an impression on his heart.

She was painted in the same dress he saw her in that day, with her head-dress of flowers; and so transported was he with his love, that it was a long while before he perceived these words, which were wrote under it.

Forget her charms, or thy love will be fatal to thee.

'Alas! (cried Alidorus, what happiness is there without my shepherdes?' This transport charmed Young-and-Handsome. That fine picture Alidorus despised, was an imaginary one, by which the young fairy had a mind to try whether her shepherd would prefer her to so beautiful a person, who seemed to be a goddess, or a fairy; but satisfied with his love, she returned to her palace, after she had by a signal, called her nymphs together, who were gone to see after their lovers.

Some

Some of them were very well please'd with theirs, having found them thinking and speaking of them with passion; others again were dissatisfied with the effects of their beauty, having found their shepherds asleep, who in the day-time appeared very amorous, but were not in love enough to keep them waking all night.

The young shepherdes went to bed when she arrived at her palace, pleas'd with the love of her shepherds, and agitated only with the sweet impatience of seeing him again. —For Alidorus, he slept a little; and without disquieting himself with the menaces he read under the pictures, thought of nothing but the meadow, where he hoped to see his shepherdes the next day, which he thought approach'd too slow.

He drove his flock to the fortunate place where he first saw Young-and-Handsome; his little dog watch'd them, while his master dream'd of his shepherdes.

Young-and-Handsome was that day, against her will, oblig'd to give audience to several ambassadors that came from neighbouring princes. Never were audiences more short, yet best part of that day was spent in those troublesome ceremonies, and the young fairy suffer'd as much as her shepherd, who languish'd under a most cruel impatience. The sun set, and Alidorus, who thought he should not see his divine shepherdes that day, was in the greatest grief imaginable: He sigh'd and bewail'd his ill fortune a thousand times, made these verses on her absence, and with the iron of his crook engraved them on a young elm.

*Thou bright beauty of the day,
Whom love's goddess can't jarvey,
Without envy of thy charms:
Shining beauty, fairest face,
Waited on by every grace,
That the loveliest female arms.*

*How prodigal has love bestow'd
 All the artillery of the God ;
 You are made so charming fair ;
 'Tis by you he wounds all hearts,
 And no longer by his darts,
 Nymph, your absence brings despair.*

*Fated to pass my days alone,
 My sorrows now are constant grown,
 Yet my love and they are one.*

}

He had hardly done, before Young-and-Handsome appeared with her nymphs at a distance, all clothed like shepherdesses. Alidorus knowing them, presently ran, or rather flew towards Young-and-Handsome, who received him with a charming smile, capable to create a happiness in gods themselves.

He spoke to her of his love with an ardour that might have persuaded any heart less affected than that of the young fairy, who would see what he had engraved on the tree, and was delighted both with the wit and tenderness of her young shepherd. He told her all that happened the night before, and offered a thousand times to follow her to the end of the world, to avoid the love a goddess or fairy had unhappily conceived for him. I shall lose too much (replied Young-and-Handsome) if you fly that fairy ; for 'tis time I discover to you my sentiments, since I am not satisfied with yours. 'Twas I myself, Alidorus (continued the charming shepherdess) it was I that gave you those marks of my tenderness, which, if you are faithful shall last for ever, and make us happy.'

The lovely shepherd, transported with joy, cast himself at her feet, and, by his silence informed the fairy more than if he used the most pathetic eloquence. Young-and-Handsome raised him up, and he found himself clothed in a stately habit ; then the fairy touching the ground with her crook, there appeared a magnificent

magnificent chariot, drawn by twelve white horses, very beautiful, and harnessed four on abreast.— Young-and-Handsome got into the chariot, and made her lovely shepherd sit down by her; and as soon as the nymphs had taken their places, the horses, which had no need of any guide to obey the fairy's intentions, carried them presently to a castle Young-and-Handsome took great delight in, which she had embellished with all her art, and called the Castle of Flowers.

The young fairy and her happy lover arrived in a great court, surrounded by palisades breast-high, covered over with jessamine and citrons, by which there ran a fine river, on the other side of which were meadows almost out of sight, where the same river sported in several meanders, as if loth to leave so charming an abode.

The castle was much more to be admired for its architecture than extent: there were twelve apartments in it, each of which had its different excellencies, they being large, but not capable of containing the whole court of Young-and-Handsome, which was both numerous and magnificent.

The young fairy always came to this Castle when she had a mind to be retired, attended only by favorite nymphs, and some of the officers of her household.— She conducted her shepherd into the apartment of myrtles, where all the furniture consisted of myrtles always in flower, interwoven with so much art, as shewed the fairy's delicate taste in the most simple things. Thus all the apartments were furnished with flowers, which perfumed the air with their fragrantcy.

Young-and-Handsome had banished thence winter, and never permitted the heats of summer to intrude on so agreeable a place, but to enjoy with more pleasure the beauty of the baths; which apartment was made of blue and white porphery finely wrought, with baths of different sizes and forms: That which Young-and-Handsome bathed in was one entire topaz of

exquisite beauty, over which was a canopy of yellow and silver brocade, adorned with pearls, supported by four pillars of amethyst. Alidorus who was entirely taken up with the happiness of looking on his lovely fairy, and seeing her sensible of his passion, observed hardly any of these wonders. A tender and pleasant conversation enchanted these happy lovers a long time in the apartment of myrtles; a magnificent supper was served up in the hall of jonquils which was followed by an entertainment, wherein the nymphs represented in music the loves of Diana and Endymion.

Young-and-Handsome, who forgot to return to her palace, passed the remainder of the night in the apartment of Narcissus; and Alidorus, transported with love, was a long while before he could taste the sweets of sleep in the apartment of myrtles, where the nymphs conducted him after supper: And that night the fairy, who was not willing to use her power to calm an agreeable disorder, slept not till day-break.

Alidorus, who longed with impatience to see the charming fairy again, waited some time for that happy moment in the hall of jonquils: He had neglected nothing in his dress that could add to his natural graces and beauties: And Young-and-Handsome, who appeared more charming than Venus, spent part of that day with Alidorus and her nymphs in the gardens of the castle, the beauties of which surpassed description.

They had a small regalia in a delightful wood, where Alidorus for some time enjoyed the pleasure of declaring his passion for Young-and-Handsome, who returning that night promised Alidorus to come again the next day. Never was any absence of so short a time so much regretted; the shepherd wished passionately to have followed the young fairy: she being willing to conceal her tenderness from her court, desired him to stay in the garden of flowers. None ever entered this castle without her orders; and for her nymphs, she feared not their discovering her secrets; for those of
fairies

fairies are always safe, and never divulged. She asked Alidorus for his little dog, to take him along with her; for what pleases those we love is always dear to us.

After the young fairy was gone, the shepherd, to entertain his disquiet, rather than divert it, went farther into the wood, to dream of his adorable fairy; and in a little mead, that was in the midst of the wood, enamelled with flowers, and watered by a delicate spring, he saw his flock skipping on the grass, and guarded by six young slaves of good mein, clothed in blue and gold, with collars and chains of the same: His favorite ewe soon knew her master, and came to him; Alidorus caressed her, and was sensibly touched at the care Young-and-Handsome had for him.

The young slaves shewed Alidorus their hut, which was just by, at the end of a shady alley, which little abode was built all of cedar, in which appeared the cyphers of Young-and-Handsome and Alidorus mixed together, with this inscription in letters of gold, on a large torquoise:

*How pleasant is the sweet abode,
Where my charmer's flock doth feed!
By the shepherd I'm beloved,
In bliss no god can me exceed.*

The lovely shepherd returned to the castle of flowers, charmed with the bounties of the young fairy; who the next day came again to her happy lover, as she had promised. How great was his joy to see her again! All that the young fairy had done before, never gave him so great a pleasure. She spent almost all her time in the castle of flowers, and seldom appeared at her court; where the princes, her lovers, felt a mortal grief, since all was sacrificed to the happy Alidorus.

But it was impossible for so great a felicity to last long without some disaster. Another fairy had seen the lovely shepherd, and found her heart sensible of his charms.

One evening when Young-and-Handsome was gone to her court, Alidorus, taken up with his love, set musing in the hall of jonquils; when hearing a little noise at one of the windows, and looking that way, he perceived a great light, and soon after saw on a table just by where he sat, a little woman, about half a yard high, very old, with hair as white as snow, and an old fashioned ruff and fardingale.

‘ I am the fairy Mordicant (said she to the shepherd;) and come to pronounce to you a happiness, greater than that of being beloved by Young-and-Handsome.’ ‘ What happiness can that be? said Alidorus to her, in a disdainful manner, The Gods themselves enjoy not a greater blessing!’ ‘ It is that of pleasing me (answered the old fairy haughtily:) I love you, and my power is greater than that of Young-and-Handsome, and almost equal to the gods.— Leave this young fairy for me; I will revenge you of your enemies, and on those you would prejudice,’

‘ Your favors are of no use to me (replied the charming shepherd, smiling) I have no enemies, and would hurt nobody: I am too well satisfied with my good fortune, and if the beautiful fairy, whom I adore, had been only a shepherdess, I had been as happy with her in a cottage, as I am in the most delightful palace.’

After these words the wicked fairy seemed all on a sudden as large as she seemed at first little, and in disappearing made a terrible noise. The next day Young-and-Handsome came again to the castle of flowers: Alidorus told her his adventure; they both knew the fairy Mordicant to be both old and ugly, and very sensible of love. The two lovers passed a thousand jests on her passion, and never made themselves a moment uneasy at the effects of her revenge; for to be a successful lover, and think of misfortunes to come, is a thing unusual.

Eight

Eight days after, Young-and-Handsome and the lovely shepherd went to take the air in a fine gilt boat on the river, which surrounded this castle of flowers, followed by their small court in very fine boats; Young-and-Handsome's was covered with a canopy of a light blue and silver stuff, with oars of the same, attended by others full of musicians. Alidorus, more in love than ever, regarded nothing but Young-and-Handsome, whose beauty that day appeared more charming to him than ever.

In the midst of their pleasures, twelve Syrens arose out of the water, followed soon after by as many Tritons; who ranging themselves by the boat side which Young-and-Handsome was in, the Tritons with their concave shells, performed a most agreeable symphony, the Syrens sung most alluring airs, which amused the young fairy and shepherd some time. — Young-and-Handsome, who was used to such like diversions, thought it had been prepared by those whom she entrusted with that care; when those perfidious Tritons and Syrens, laying their hands on the boat, sunk down with it suddenly.

All that Alidorus feared, was the danger that the young fairy ran, and would have ran towards her, but the Tritons carried him away; while Young-and-Handsome, forced away by the Syrens, was put into her palace.

As one fairy has no power over another, the jealous Mordicant limited her revenge, in making Young-and-Handsome endure all the torments a cruel absence could create. In the mean time Alidorus was conveyed by the Tritons into a terrible castle, guarded by winged dragons, where Mordicant resolved to make the shepherd answer her love, or revenge herself on his disdain. They put him into a dark room, where Mordicant, all shining with jewels, came to him, and spoke of the tenderness, whom the shepherd, in despair for being separate from Young-and-Handsome, treated with the utmost contempt and disdain.

Mordicant's

Mordicant's rage was inexpressible, and her love too violent to destroy the person who was the cause of it. She resolved, after keeping Alidorus some time in this most dismal prison, to vanquish his fidelity by new artifices; and to that end transported him suddenly into a magnificent palace, where he was served with a pomp no ways inferior to what he had seen in the castle of flowers. She endeavoured to dissipate his grief by a thousand agreeable entertainments; and the most beautiful nymphs in the world, which composed her court, seemed to strive which should have the honour of pleasing him. They never spoke to Alidorus of the wicked fairy's love, that faithful shepherd languished in the midst of pleasures, and was as much in despair for his absence from Young-and-Handsome, at all the most gallant entertainments, as when in his dismal prison.

In the mean time, Mordicant hoped that the absence of Young-and-Handsome, the continual pleasures she endeavoured to amuse him with, and the sight of so many charming persons, might in the end render the heart of the shepherd unfaithful: Her design, by presenting so many beautiful nymphs to his view, was to find out what sort of beauty he liked best, that she might assume a form accordingly: sometimes she appeared a charming brown, and sometimes a most delicate fair.

Love, who can do every thing, then suspended her natural cruelty; but her despair of not being able to shake the constancy of Alidorus rekindled her rage so much, that she determined to destroy that charming shepherd, and to make him a victim to that unshaken love he preserved for Young-and-Handsome.

One day as she was watching undiscovered, she heard Alidorus, who was leaning over the banisters of a gallery that looked towards the sea, sighing grievously, and making such tender and piercing complaints, as shewed the lively passion he had for the young fairy: when transported with rage, she appeared to him in her own natural shape, and after having cast a thousand reproaches

ches

ches on him, confined him in a prison, and told him, that in three days he should be sacrificed to her hatred, by the most cruel punishments a despised lover could inflict.

Alidorus, for his part, valued not his life, which was insupportable to him when absent from Young-and-Handsome; and as he was satisfied he had nothing to apprehend on her part from Mordicant's anger, he expected, with firmness of mind, the death which had been pronounced.

In the mean time Young-and-Handsome, who was as faithful to her shepherd, groaned under her grief of losing him. The Syrens, as soon as they had carried her to the palace, disappeared, and the young fairy, not doubting but that it was the cruel Mordicant that had carried Alidorus away, could not disguise from her court the grief which her tenderness for her shepherd, and her loss of him, created.

How many kings were there jealous of the misfortunes to which the wicked fairy precipitated Alidorus! What a rage were the princes her admirers in, when they understood that they had a rival beloved, and saw her shed tears for him! Yet their hopes revived at the losing of him, for they were sensible that Young-and-Handsome knew as well how to love as to please: They redoubled their importunities, and every one flattered himself with the pleasing hope to succeed that happy lover; when Young-and-Handsome, equally afflicted with the absence of Alidorus, and wearied with the love of his rivals, left her court, and retired to the castle of flowers.

The sight of that charming abode, where every thing reminded her of her lovely shepherd, augmented her grief and tenderness; when one day as she was walking in those pleasant gardens, 'Alas! (said she, looking on the ornament that embellished it) I once took a pleasure in you, but am now too much taken up with my grief to think of adding to your beauties.

As

As she made an end of these words, she perceived the flowers moved by a gentle wind, and saw them ranged in a different manner: At first they represented the cyphers of Young-and Handsome, then other cyphers which she knew not, and presently afterwards they formed distinct letters, by which Young-and-Handsome read these verses:

*To grace this place bid gentle Zephyr wait,
With springing gales the flowers to consecrate;
For Flora every day excess he shews,
And does his care luxuriously expose:
Ambitious more under your pow'r to live,
If you but smile, much greater he will give.*

When she had read these verses, she saw in the air a god, who came to declare his love to her, drawn in a chariot of roses by white vapours. As soon as the chariot alighted on the earth, the god Zephyrus got out of it, and approached the young fairy: he spoke to her with all the grace and gallantry of a deity, while the young fairy, though pleased with so glorious a conquest, answered him like a faithful lover. Zephyrus, not at all dismayed at the rigorous answers of Young-and-Handsome, but flattering himself with the hopes of softening her heart by his gentle approaches, made constant court to her, and neglected nothing that might please her. Which contributed much to the glory of Alidorus thus to have a god for his rival, and to be preferred before him.

All this while Alidorus, that happy mortal, was ready to expire by the fury of Mordicant; he had been almost a year in that condition, when Zephyrus, who had no hopes of overcoming the constancy of Young-and-Handsome, touched with the tears she shed, and finding her one day more melancholy than ordinary, said to her,
' Since I am no longer permitted, charming fairy, to
' flatter myself with the happiness of pleasing you, I
' will however, contribute to your felicity. Tell me what
' I shall do (continued he) to accomplish it.' ' Restore
' me

' me Alidorus (replied the young fairy, with a smile
' that created new love in Zephyrus;) I have no power
' over another fairy: But you Zephyrus, are a god,
' and your power can reach that cruel rival.' ' I will
' endeavour (answered Zephyrus) to overcome the love
' you have inspired me with, to do you an agreeable
' service.' After these words he flew away, leaving
Young-and-Handsome, full of pleasing expectations.

Zephyrus, fully convinced of the young fairy's constancy, and having no hopes left, flew to the horrible prison where Alidorus was kept, attended by six impetuous western winds, which opened the prison doors, and afterwards carried the lovely shepherd in a bright cloud to the Castle of Flowers; where after he had surveyed him, his astonishment was not so great at the fidelity of Young-and-Handsome.

Alidorus and Young-and-Handsome, overjoyed to see one another again, thought each other more amiable, and loved more tenderly. These two lovers returned the god a thousand thanks, who afterwards left them, and returned to Flora.

Young-and-Handsome, willing that all her court should partake of her happiness, celebrated her marriage by a thousand sports throughout the extent of her empire, notwithstanding the grief of the princes, her lovers, who were spectators of the triumph of the lovely shepherd: and that she might be under no apprehensions for the future of Mordicant's rage against Alidorus, learnt him the fairy art, and presented him with the gift of perpetual youth. After having bestowed so great a blessing on her happy lover, mindful of his glory, she gave him the Castle of Flowers, and made him to be acknowledged sovereign of that country, where his ancestors had formerly reigned; so that he became the greatest of kings, where he had been the most charming of shepherds.

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